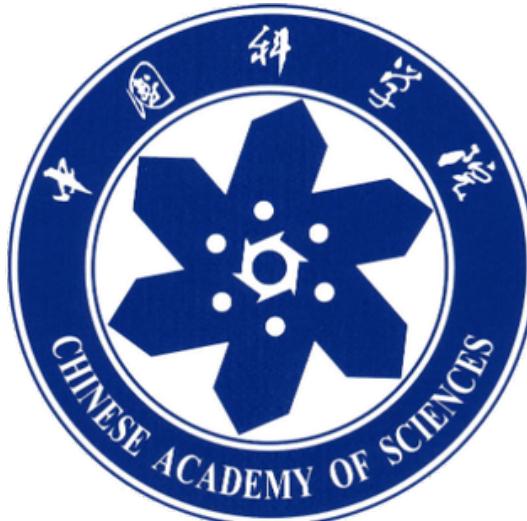
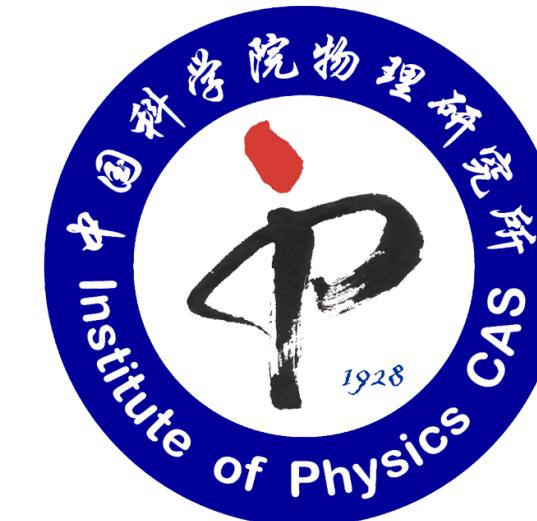


# A deep variational free energy approach to dense hydrogen

Lei Wang (王磊)

Institute of Physics, CAS

<https://wangleiphy.github.io>

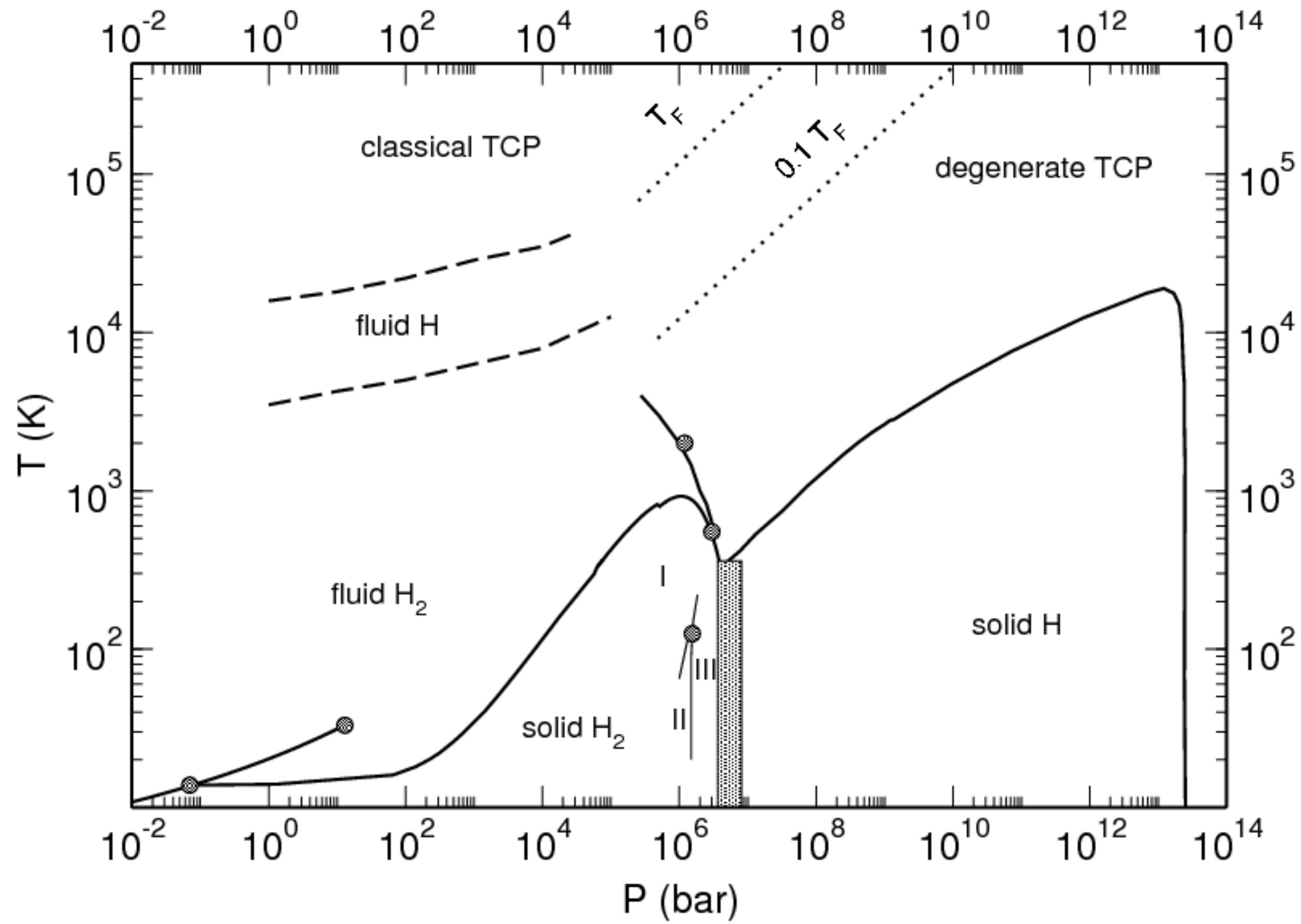


75,000%

in mass

H is the most abundant element in the visible Universe

McMahon et al, RMP 2012



**Plasma with  $H^+$  and  $e^-$**   
Finite electron temperature

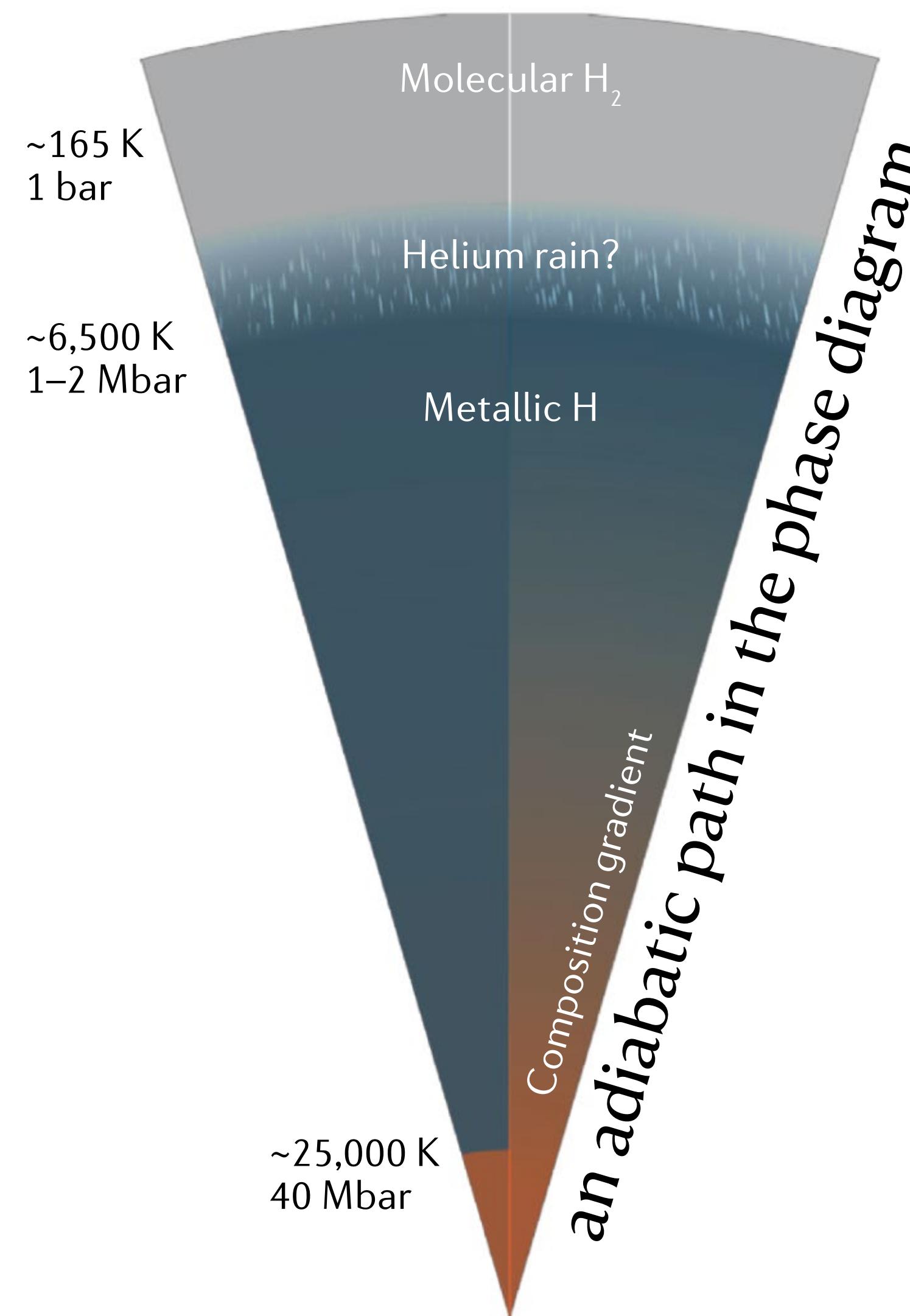
**Liquid with H and  $H_2$**   
Electron stays in the ground state

**Solidification**  
**Metallization**  
**Superconductivity..**  
Nuclear quantum effect

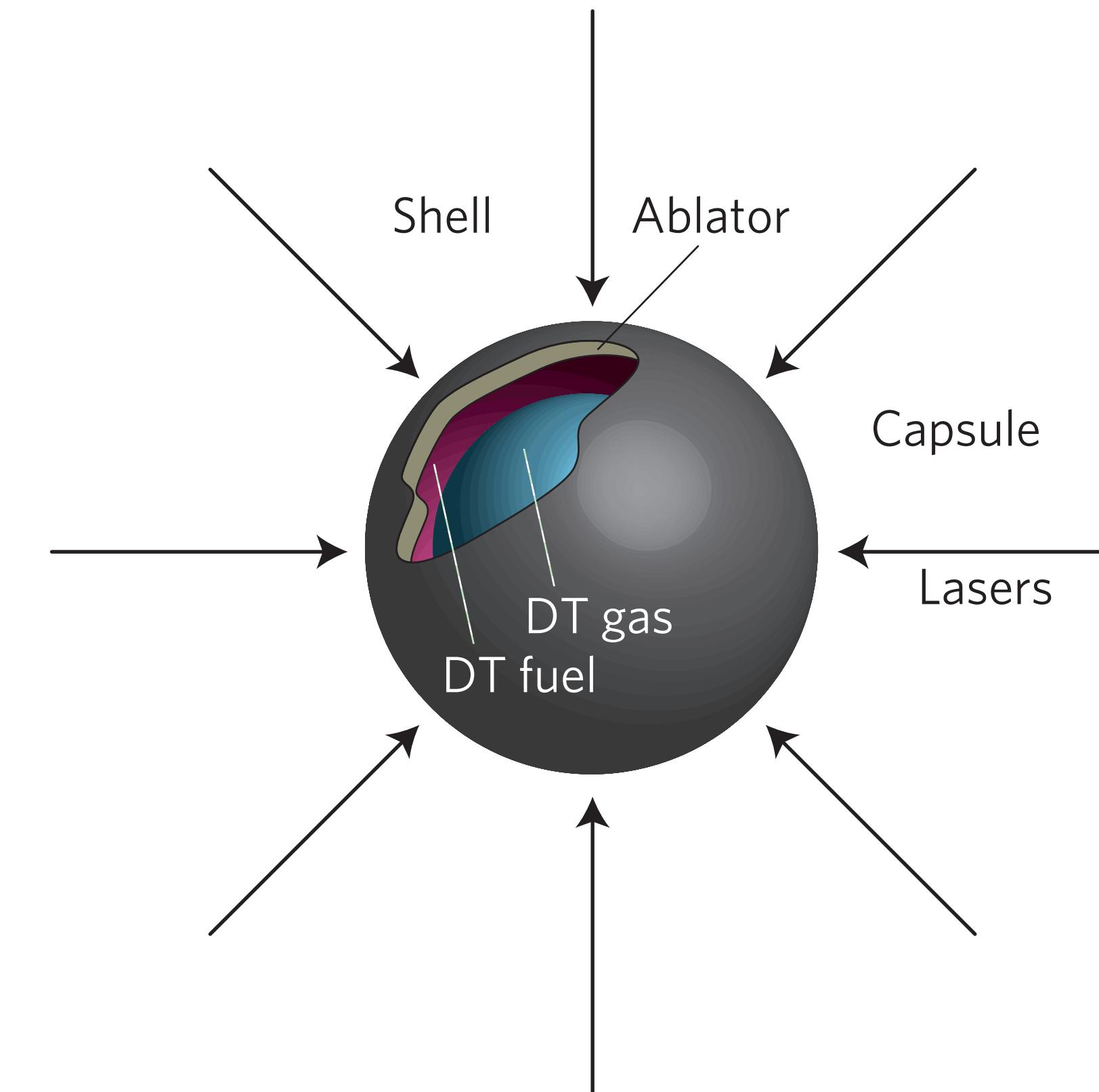
$$m_p = 1836 m_e$$

# Dense hydrogen in the sky and in the lab

## Jupiter interior



## Inertial confinement fusion



Equation-of-state is the input for hydrodynamics simulations

# Superconductivity in metallic hydrogen

Wigner and Huntington 1935, Ashcroft 1968, ...

## BCS theory

$$k_B T_c = \frac{\langle \omega \rangle^\uparrow}{1.2} \exp \left[ -\frac{1.04(1 + \uparrow \lambda)}{\uparrow \lambda - \downarrow \mu^*(1 + \uparrow 0.62 \lambda)} \right],$$

Light ion mass => higher vibrational energy scale  $\langle \omega \rangle$

Bare electron-ion interaction => stronger e-p interaction  $\lambda$

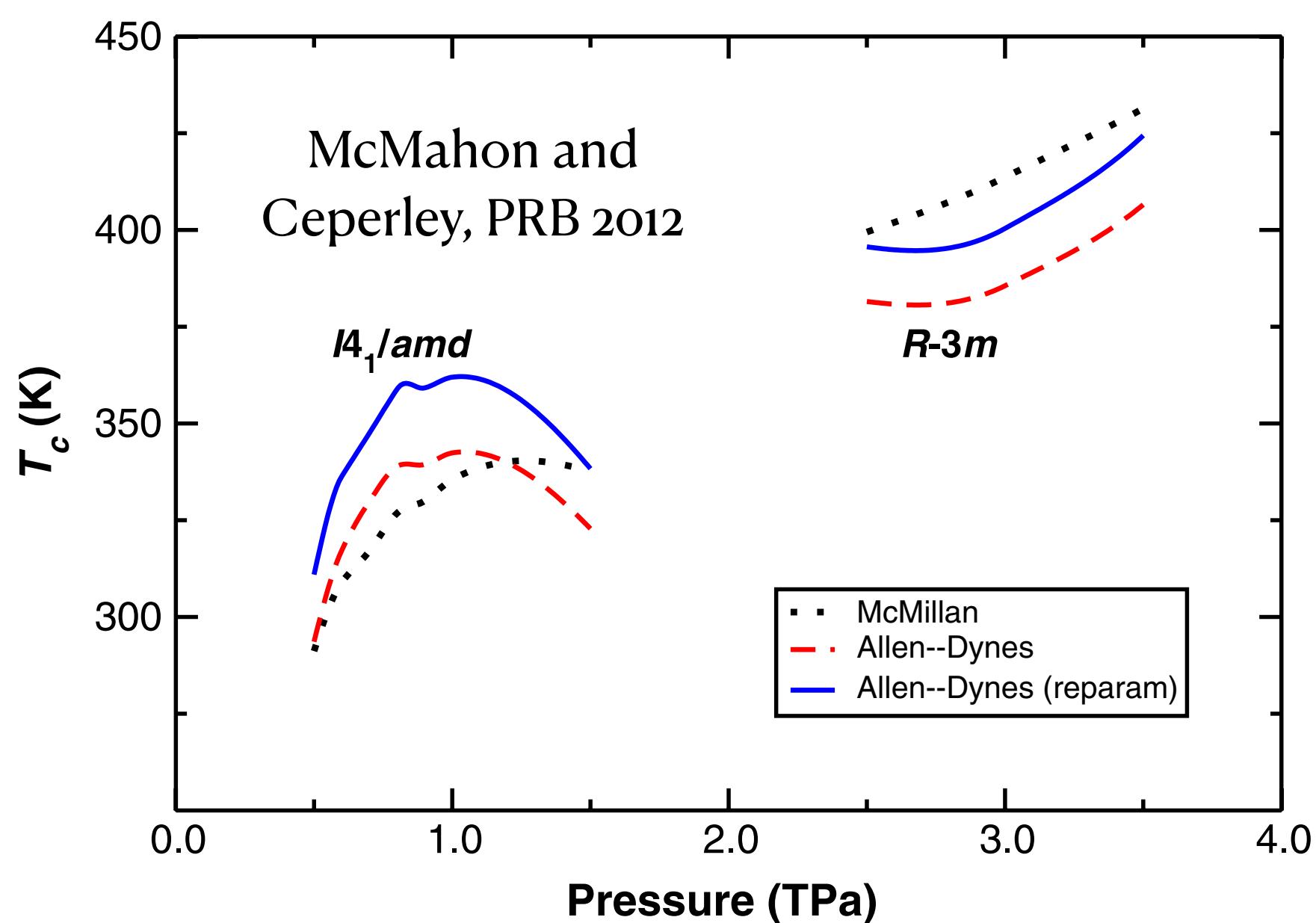
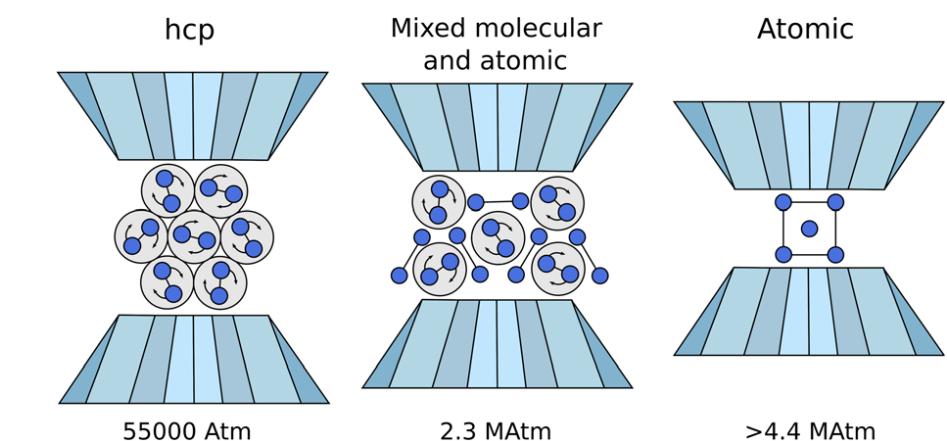
High density => relatively weaker e-e interaction  $\mu^*$

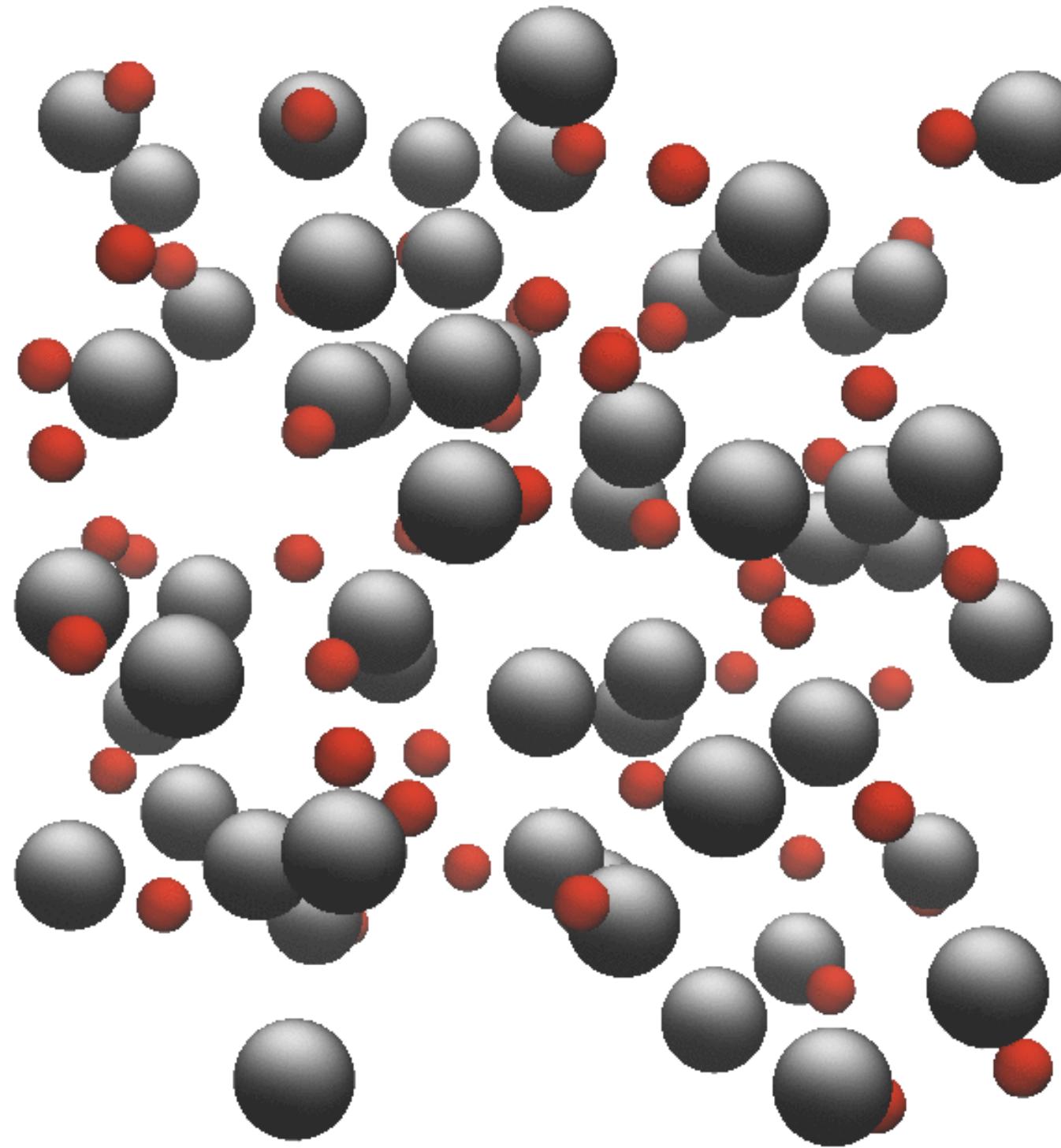
} Higher Tc!

## Exotic phases

Liquid superconductors: Jaffe and Aschcroft, PRB 1981, Liu et al, PRR 2020

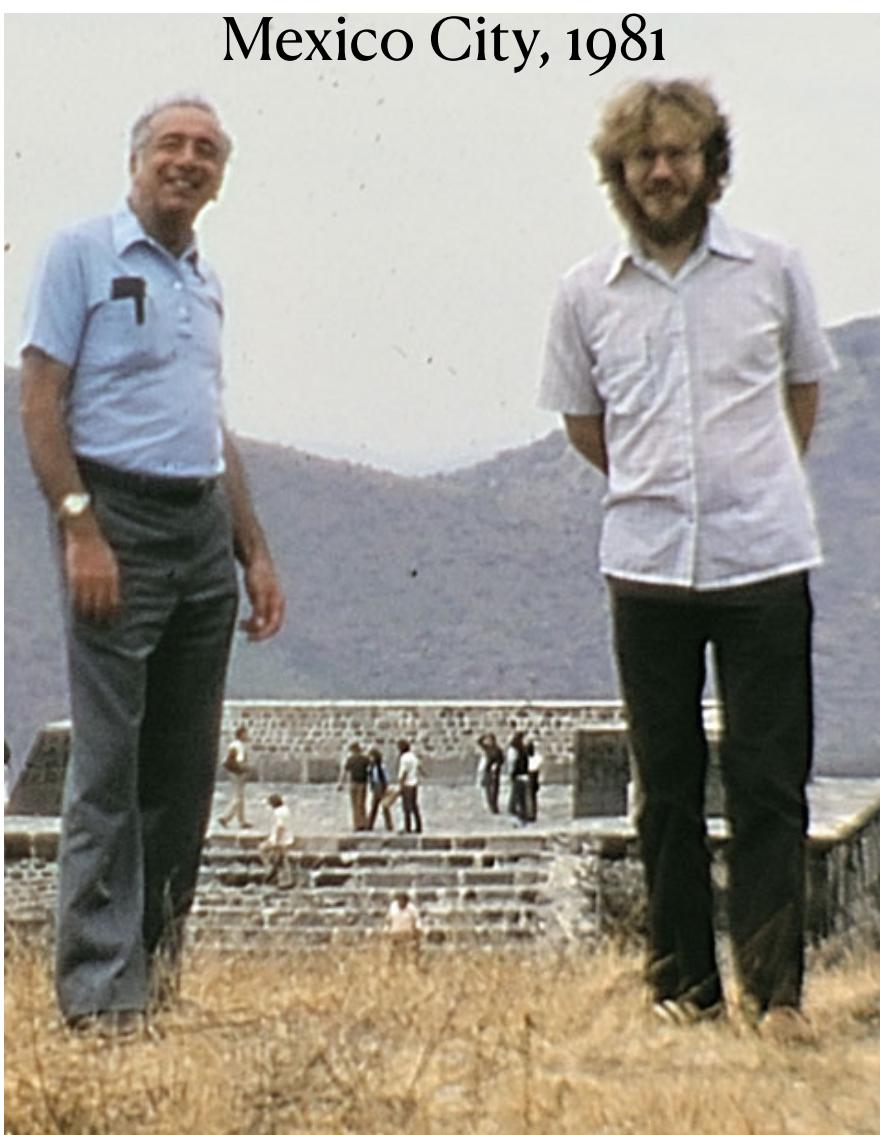
Proton Cooper pairs: Aschcroft, JPCM 2000, Babaev et al, Nature 2004





Dense hydrogen: a simple yet fascinating quantum many-body system  
Touchstone of computational methods

# $T = 0$ : Variational and Diffusion Monte Carlo

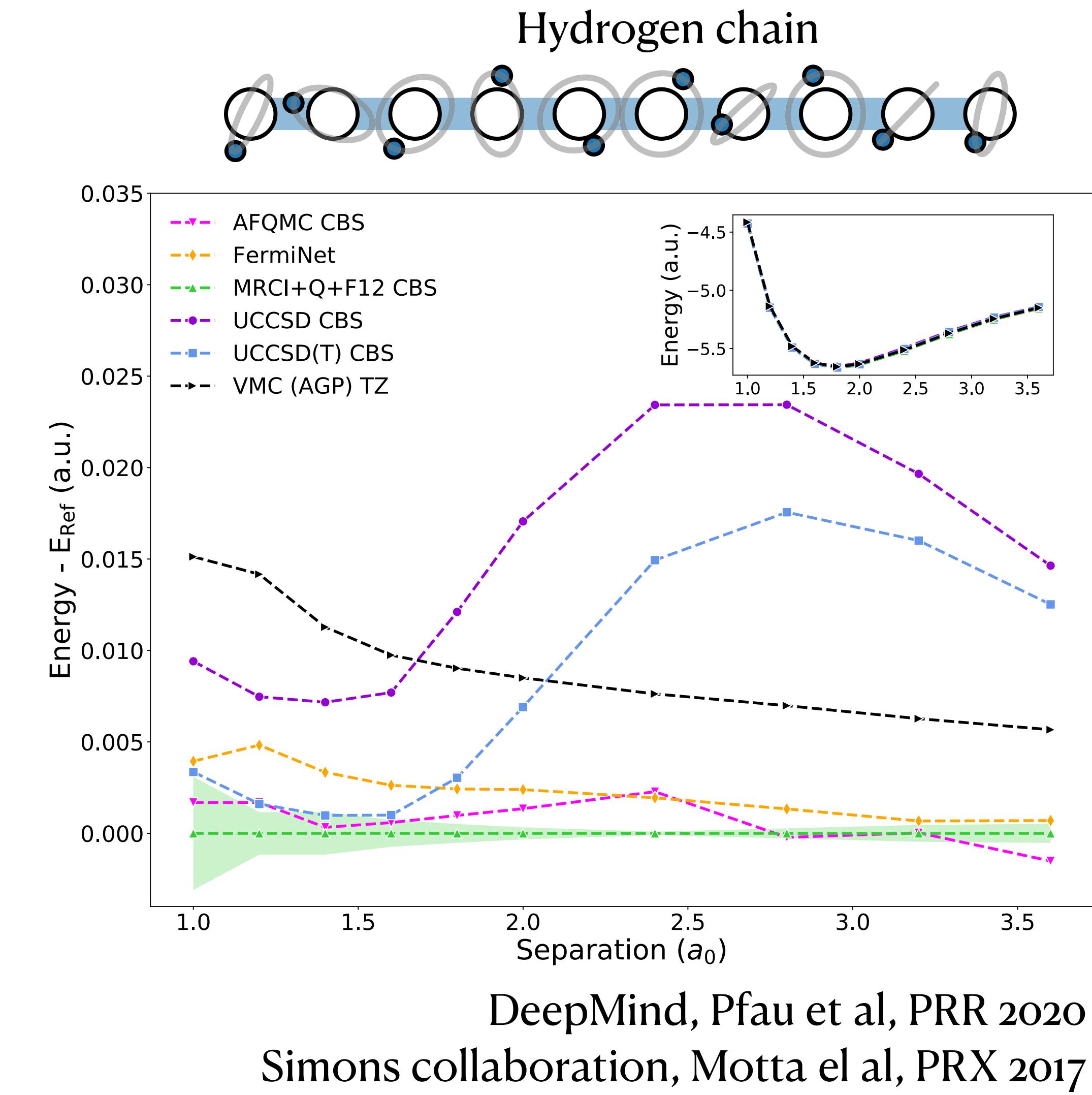


$r_s$	$E_s$	$E_H$	$E_{CBF}$	$E_{PERT}$	$E_{LDF}$
1.0	-0.726	-	-	-0.719	-
1.13	-0.892	-0.856	-0.903	-0.884	-0.906
1.31	-1.002	-0.974	-1.017	-0.996	-1.021
1.45	-1.033	-1.013	-1.054	-1.032	-1.059
1.61	-1.053	-	-1.069	-1.044	-1.074
1.77	-1.050	-1.036	-1.068	-	-1.073

FCC lattice ground state energy  
Ceperley and Alder, Physica 1981

gas model. «After I finished the electron gas calculations», Ceperley recalls, «with Berni's urging, I began to work on many-body hydrogen in 1980. An electron gas is not directly realized in any material, it's an idealized model, while hydrogen is a real material. With the hydrogen calculation we wanted to address experimental predictions, not just compare with theory. Our hydrogen calculation was the first many-electron calculation of a material to lead to important predictions».

—Computer Meets Theoretical Physics, Springer 2020

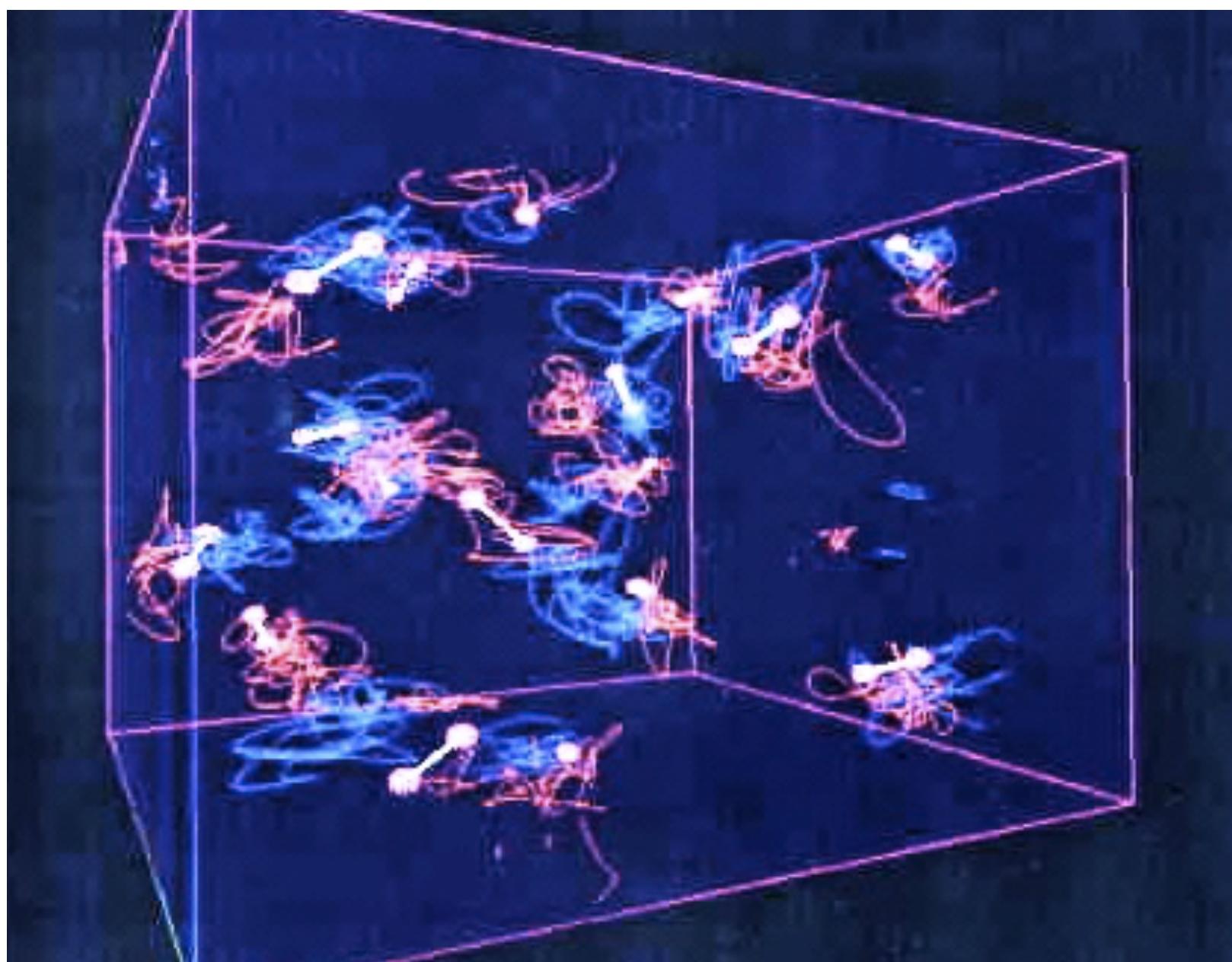


Fixed proton configuration, no thermal effect

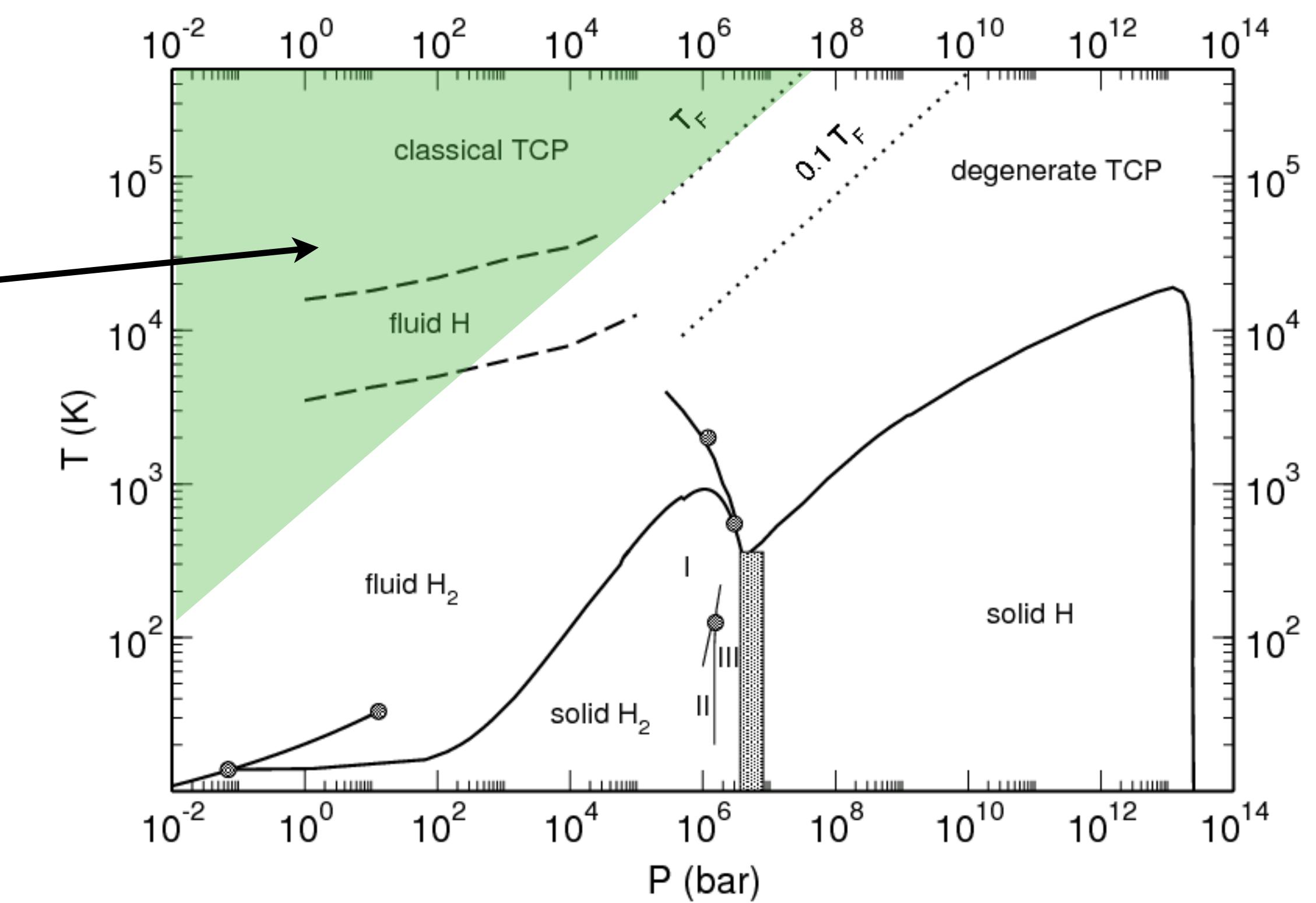
# $T \gtrsim T_F$ : Restricted path integral Monte Carlo

$$Z = \iint dX d\mathbf{R} \langle X, \mathbf{R} | e^{-\hat{H}/k_B T} | X, \mathbf{R} \rangle$$

Stat-Mech problem of ring-polymers



Pierleoni et al, PRL 1994



Limited to high temperature low density region by the Fermion sign problem

# $0 < T \ll T_F$ : a classical-quantum coupled system

$X$ : classical proton configuration

$E(X)$ : Born-Oppenheimer energy surface

Quantum

Solve  $E(X)$  by DFT/VMC/QMC/...

$$E(X) = \min_{\psi_X} \frac{\langle \psi_X | \hat{H} | \psi_X \rangle}{\langle \psi_X | \psi_X \rangle}$$

Needs a fast and accurate many-body solver  
as it is called repeatedly in the inner loop

Classical

Sample  $X$  with classical Monte Carlo/Molecular dynamics

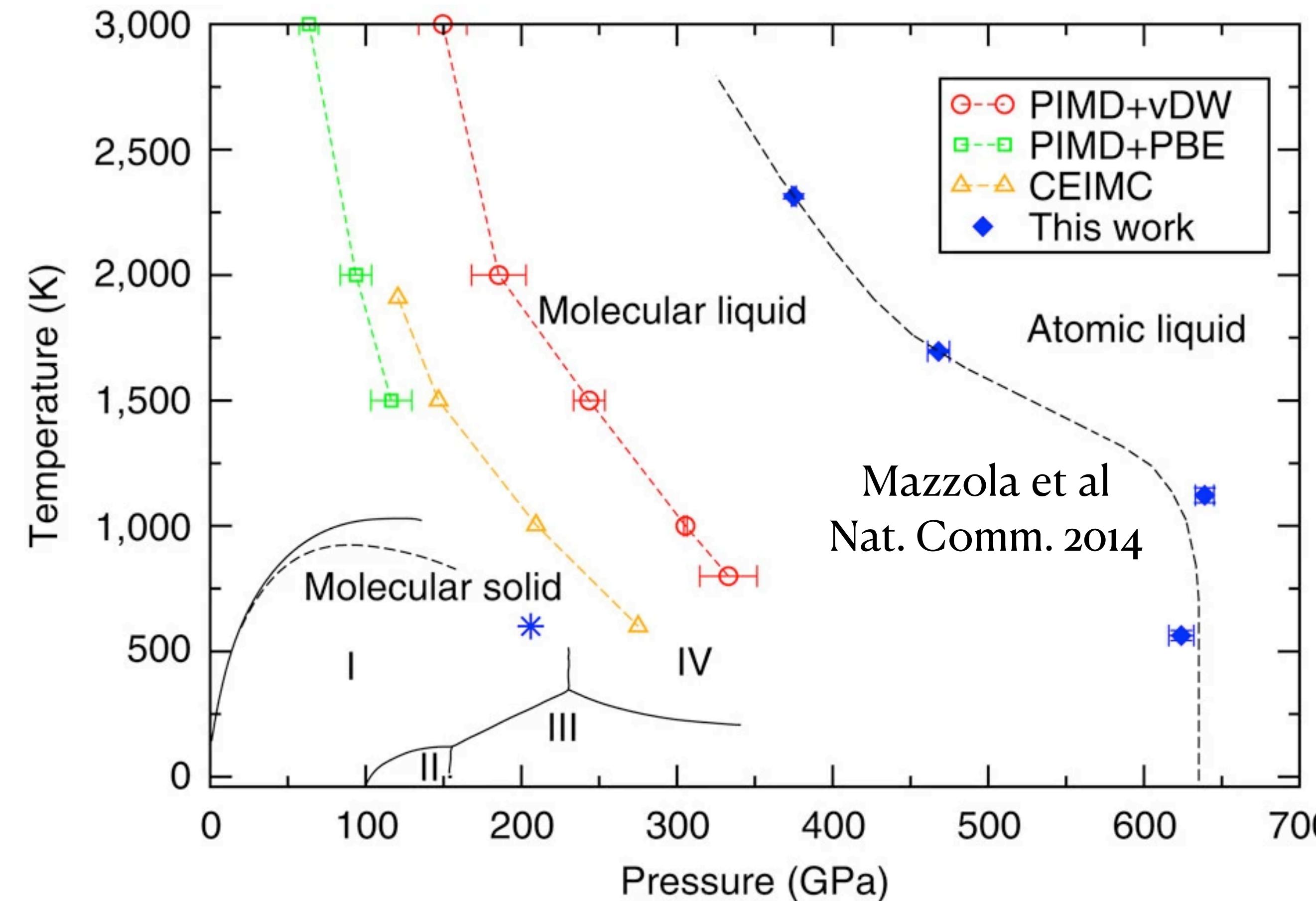
$$\min \left\{ 1, \exp \left[ \frac{E(X) - E(X')}{k_B T} \right] \right\}$$

Tricky to sample unbiasedly with  
inaccurate or noisy energy estimates

Pierleoni et al, PRL 2004, Attaccalite et al, PRL 2008

# $0 < T \ll T_F$ : Debate on the liquid-liquid transition

Where is the transition point ?



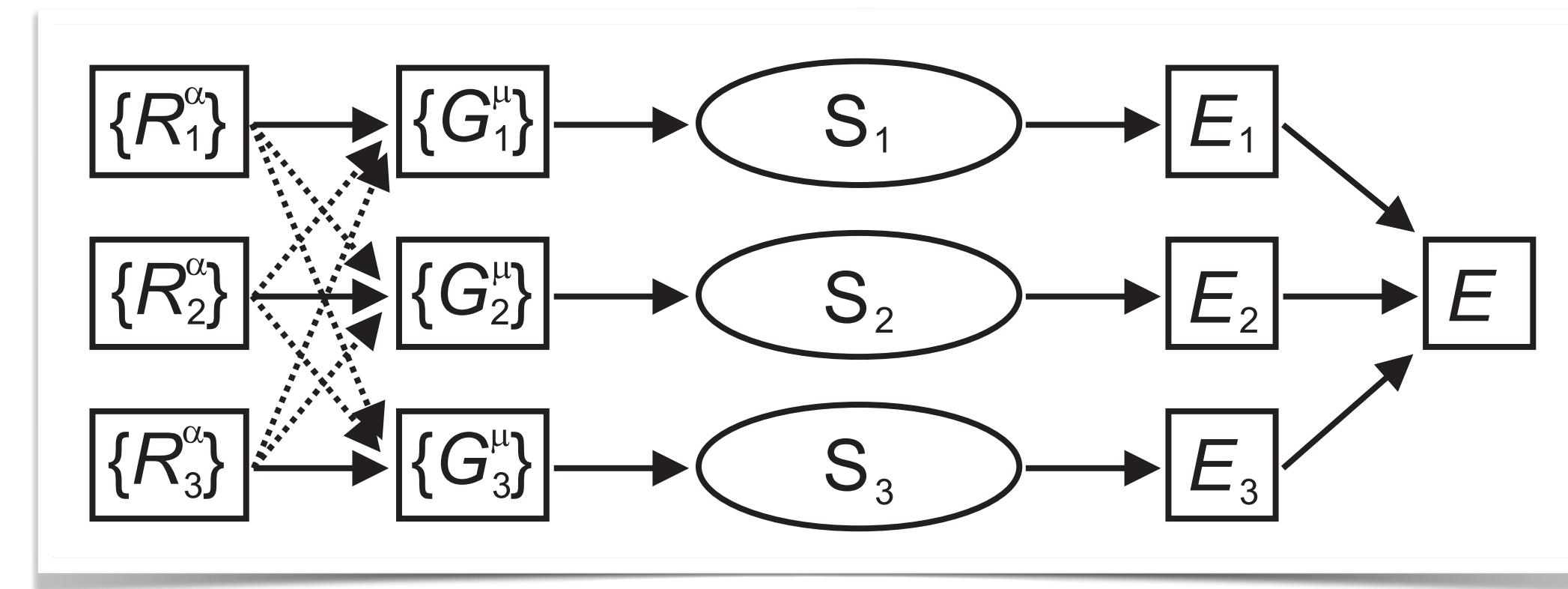
Algorithmic uncertainties coupled with finite size effect/sampling ergodicity/...

# Machine learning potential

fit  $E(X)$  with a ML model to DFT/VMC/QMC data

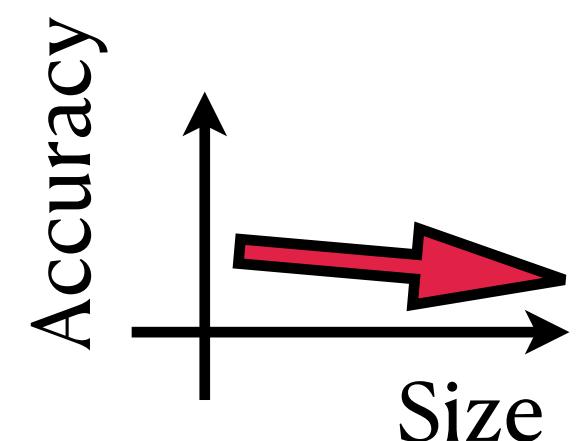
Blank, J. Chem. Phys., 1995  
Behler and Parrinello, PRL 2007

...



Can reach larger system size and more samples  
However, accuracy is still limited by (or worse than) DFT/VMC/QMC

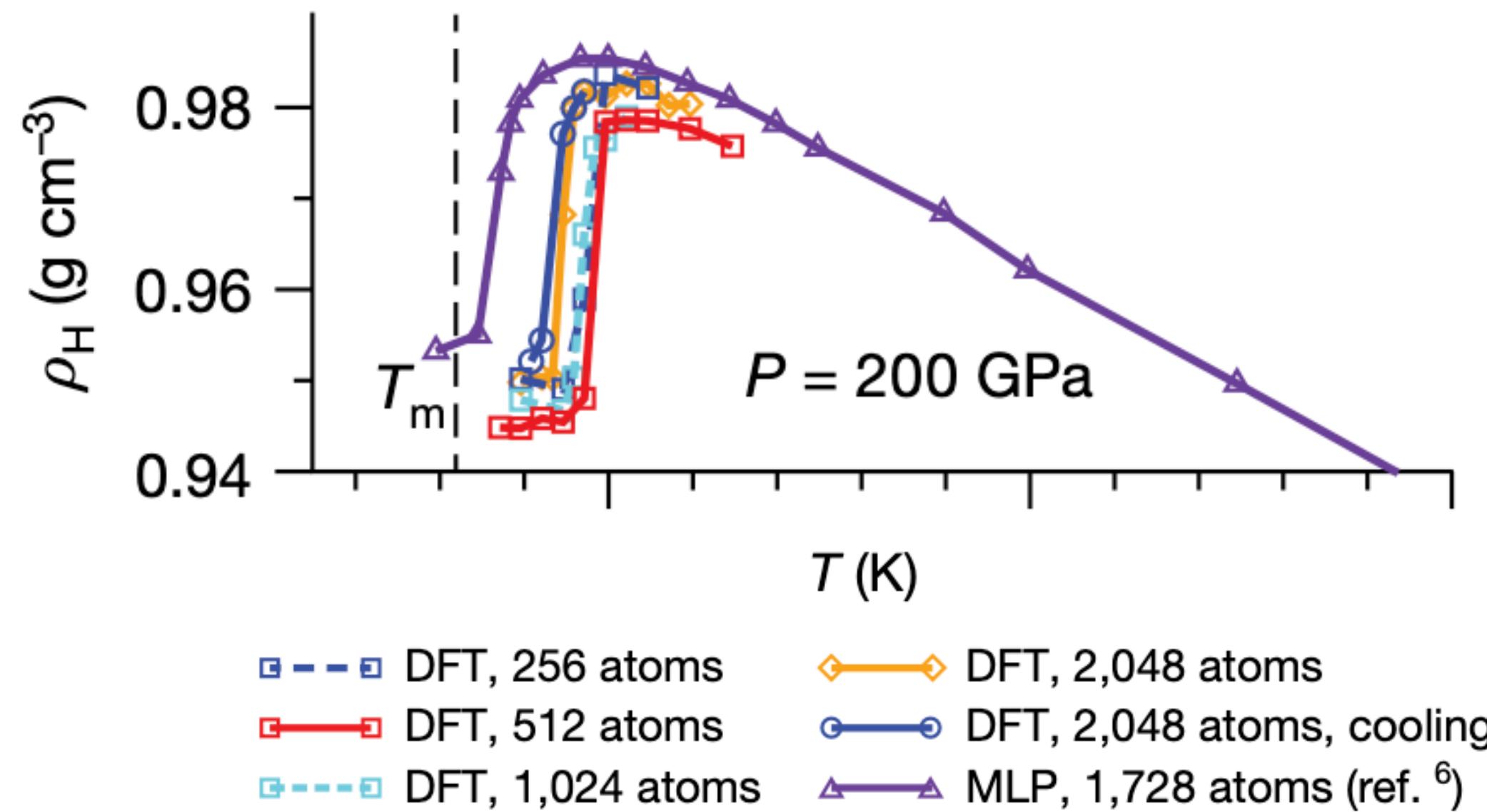
May or may not address the actual difficulty



# $0 < T \ll T_F$ : Debate on the liquid-liquid transition

Is it first or second order ?

Cheng et al, Nature 2020, Karasiev et al, Nature 2021



Matters arising

## On the liquid–liquid phase transition of dense hydrogen

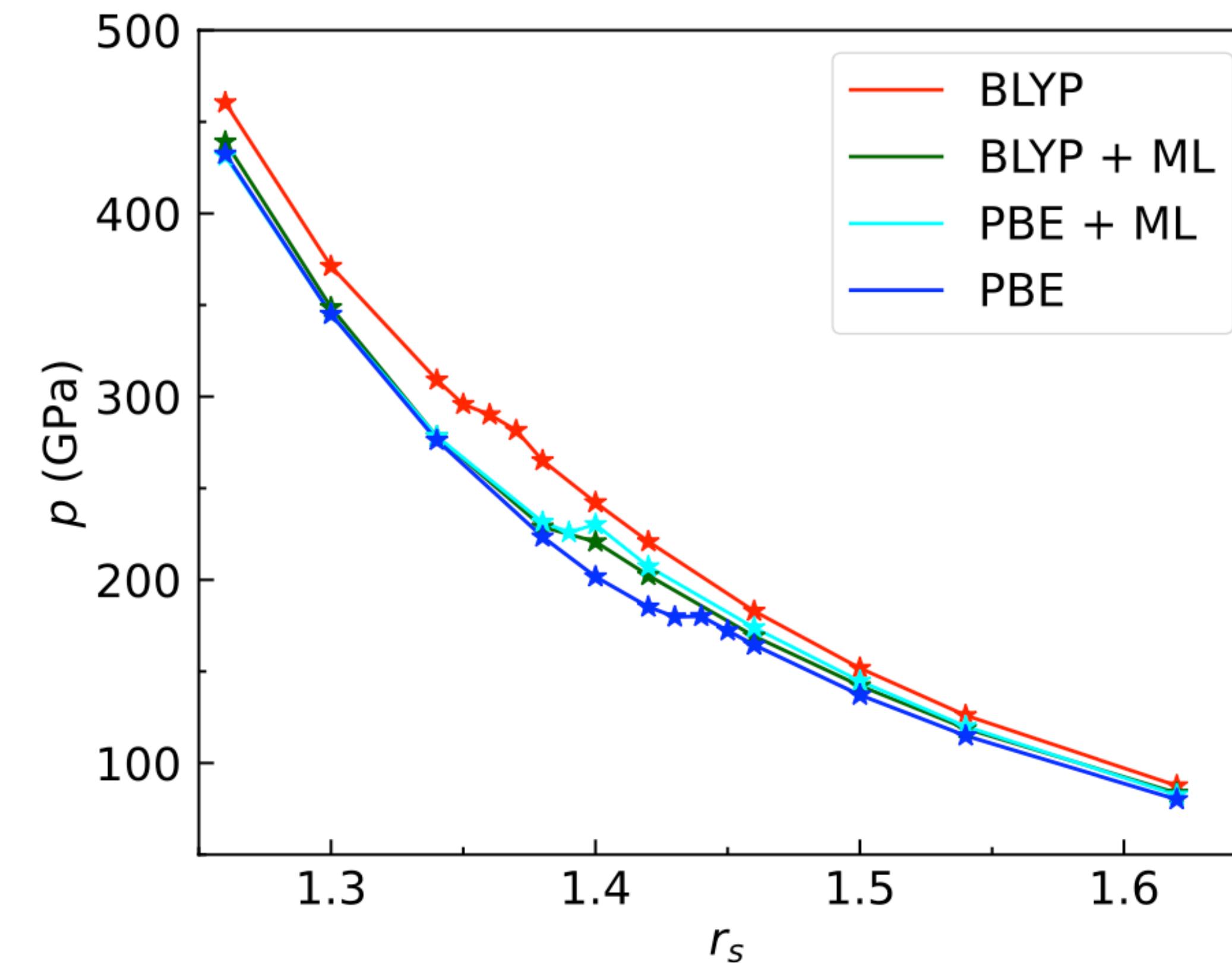
Until recently, the consensus theoretical and computational interpretation of the liquid–liquid phase transition (LLPT) of high-pressure hydrogen—which has proved challenging to determine—has been that it is first order<sup>1–5</sup>. Cheng et al.<sup>6</sup> developed a machine learning potential (MLP) that, in larger-than-previous molecular dynamics (MD) simulations, gives a continuous transition instead. We show that the MLP does not reproduce our still larger density functional theory MD (DFT-MD) calculations as it should. As the MLP is not a faithful surrogate for the DFT-MD, the prediction of a supercritical atomic liquid by Cheng et al.<sup>6</sup> is unfounded.

# $\Delta$ -machine learning for dense hydrogen

$$E = E_{\text{DFT}} + \Delta$$

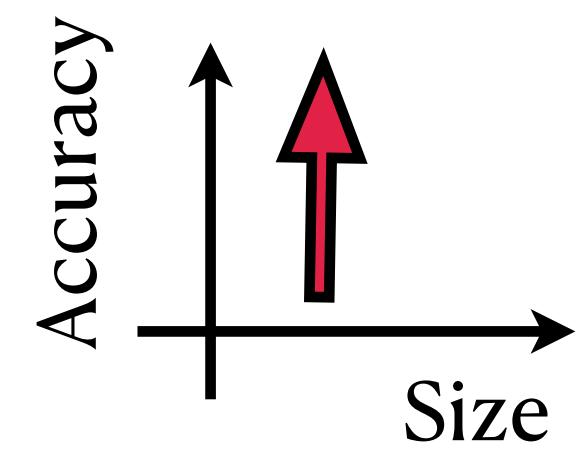
$\Delta$  is expected to be small & smooth  
learn  $\Delta$  from expensive & accurate  
QMC data

Tirelli et al, PRB 2022  
Niu et al, PRL 2023



Ideally, the results will be independent of the reference

*We would like to try something different*



# Deep variational free energy approach

**Deep generative models** unlocks the power of  
the Gibbs–Bogolyubov–Feynman variational principle

$$F[p] = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} [k_B T \ln p(X) + E(X)] \geq -k_B T \ln Z$$

↓                            ↓  
entropy                      energy

Li and LW, PRL '18  
Wu, LW, Zhang, PRL '19



Additive statistical noises in  $E(X)$  do not deteriorate stochastic optimization



Turning a sampling problem to an optimization problem  
better leverages the deep learning engine:



# Two kinds of variational Monte Carlo

## Variational free energy $T > 0$

Gibbs–Bogolyubov–Feynman, Li and LW, PRL '18, Wu, LW, Zhang, PRL '19, ...

$$F[p] = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} [k_B T \ln p(X) + E(X)]$$

$p$ : probabilistic models with  
**tractable normalization**

## Variational ground state energy $T = 0$

McMillan 1965, Carleo & Troyer Science 2017, Pfau et al, FermiNet, ...

$$E[\psi] = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{R} \sim |\psi(\mathbf{R})|^2} \left[ \frac{\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{R})}{\psi(\mathbf{R})} \right]$$

$\psi$ : ANY neural network that  
respects physical symmetries

See talks by Jannes Nys and Markus Heyl

# Why does normalization matter?

Suppose  $p(X) = \frac{e^{-E_\theta(X)/k_B T}}{Z_\theta}$  “Boltzmann machine”  
or, energy-based model

We have

$$F[p] = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} [E(X) - E_\theta(X)] - k_B T \ln Z_\theta \geq -k_B T \ln Z$$



Intractable!

# Deep variational free energy approach

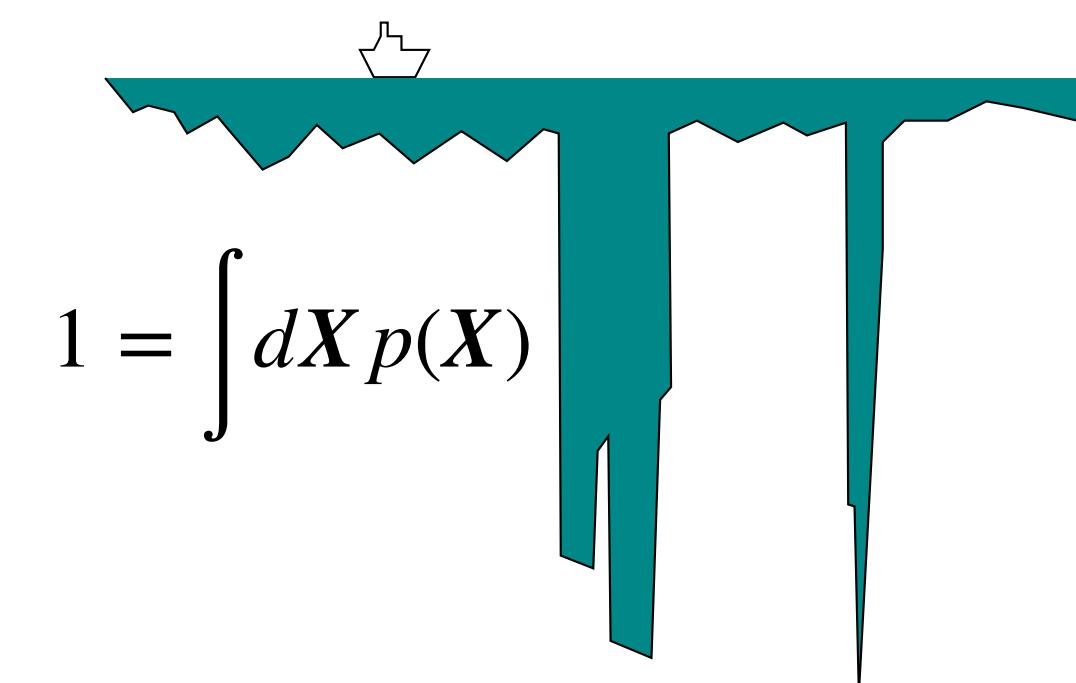
**Deep generative models** unlocks the power of  
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$$F[p] = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} [k_B T \ln p(X) + E(X)] \geq -k_B T \ln Z$$

↓                            ↓  
entropy                      energy

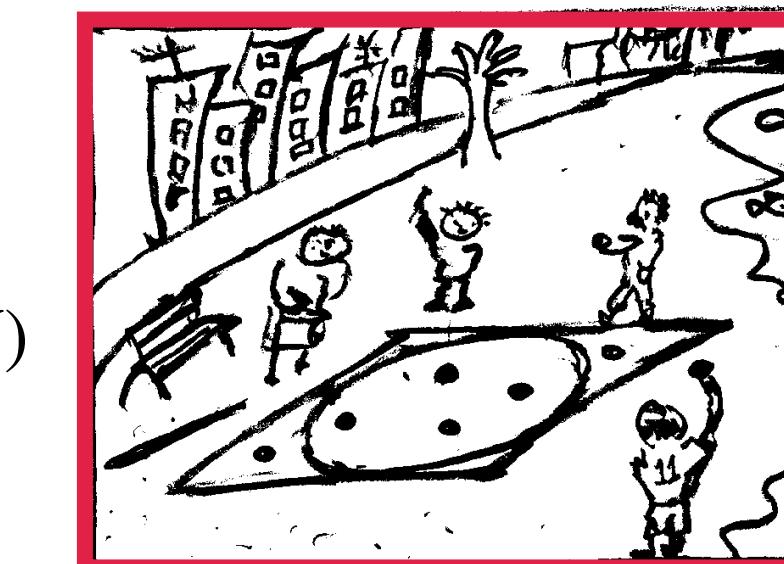
Li and LW, PRL '18  
Wu, LW, Zhang, PRL '19

Tractable normalization



Mackay, Information Theory,  
Inference, and Learning Algorithms

Direct sampling



Krauth, Statistical Mechanics:  
Algorithms and Computations

# Deep generative models

## Autoregressive model

$$p(X) = p(x_1)p(x_2 | x_1)p(x_3 | x_1, x_2)\dots$$

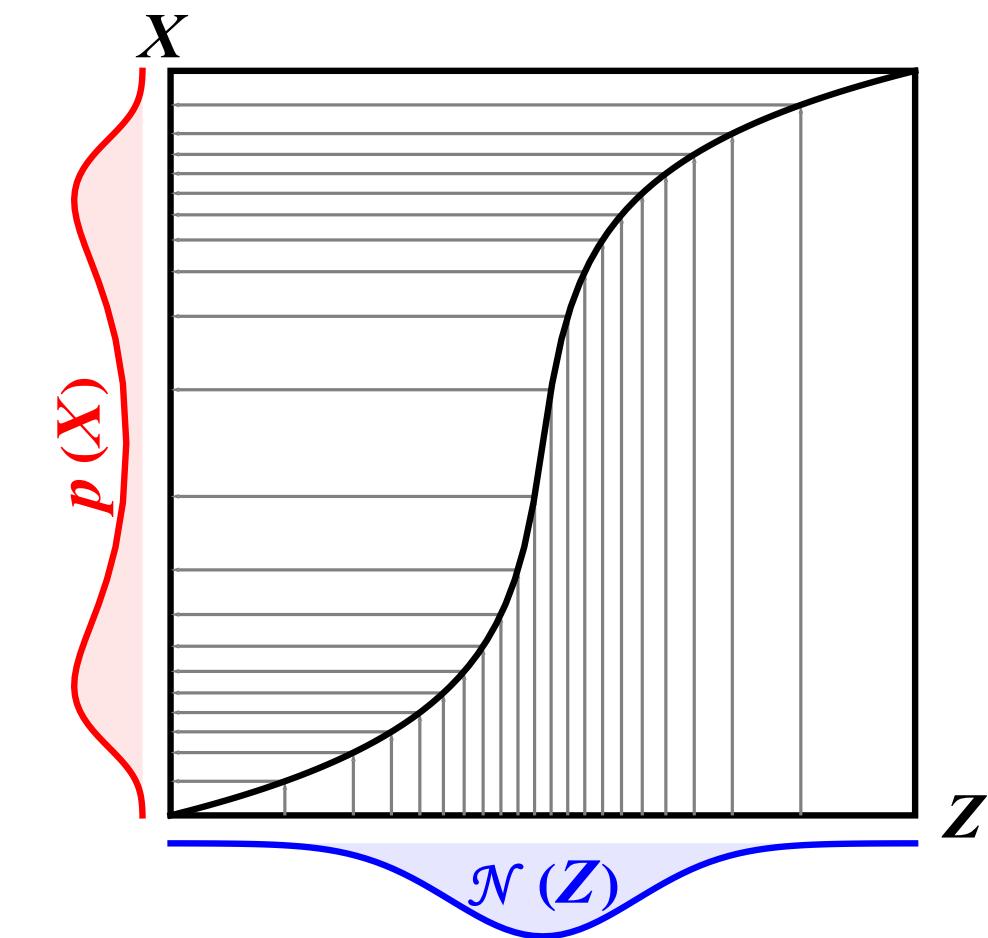


“... the murderer is \_\_\_”  
 $p(\underline{\phantom{x}} | \dots)$

Implementation: transformer with causal mask...

## Normalizing flow

$$p(X) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{Z}) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{Z}}{\partial X} \right) \right|$$



Implementation: invertible Resnet (backflow)...

## Variational free energy



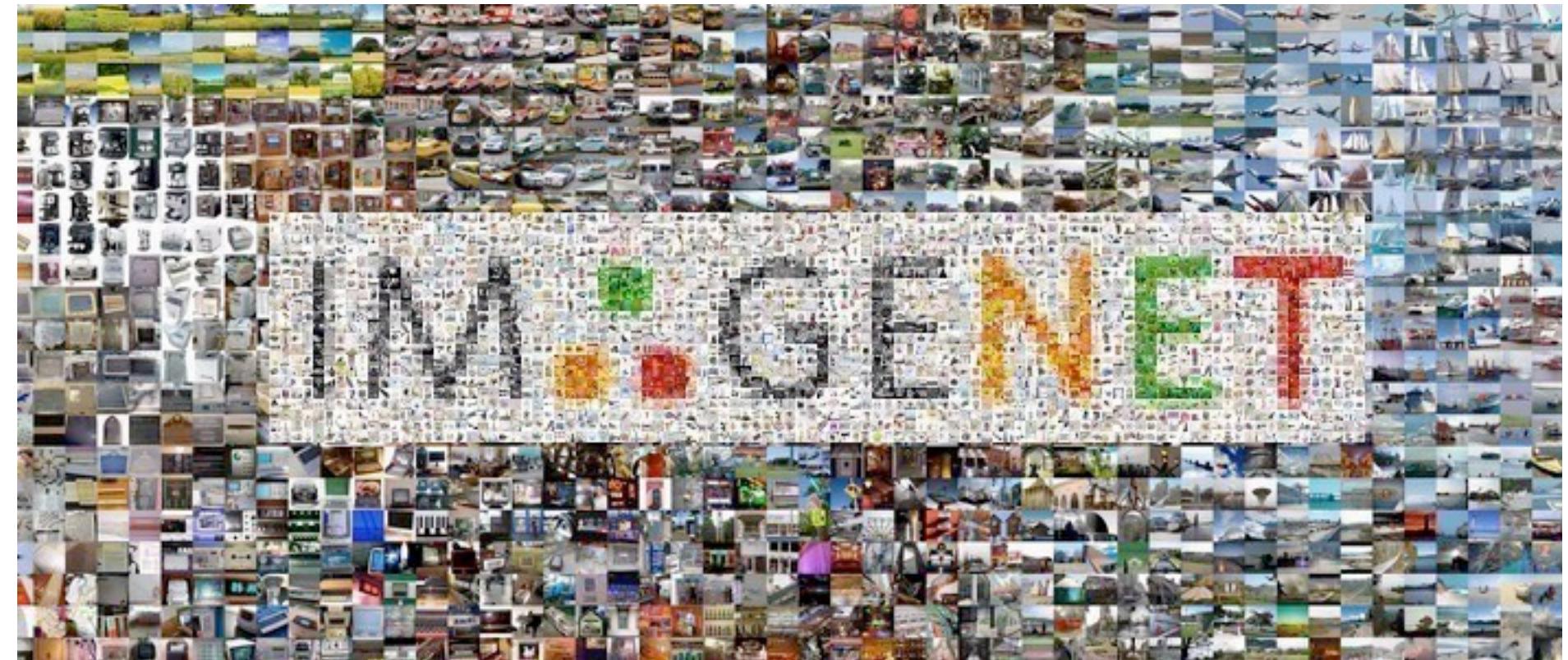
Known: (noisy) energy function

Unknown: samples

“learn from Hamiltonian”

$$\min_{\theta} \text{KL}(p_{\theta} \parallel e^{-E/k_B T})$$

## Maximum likelihood estimation



Known: samples

Unknown: generating distribution

“learn from data”

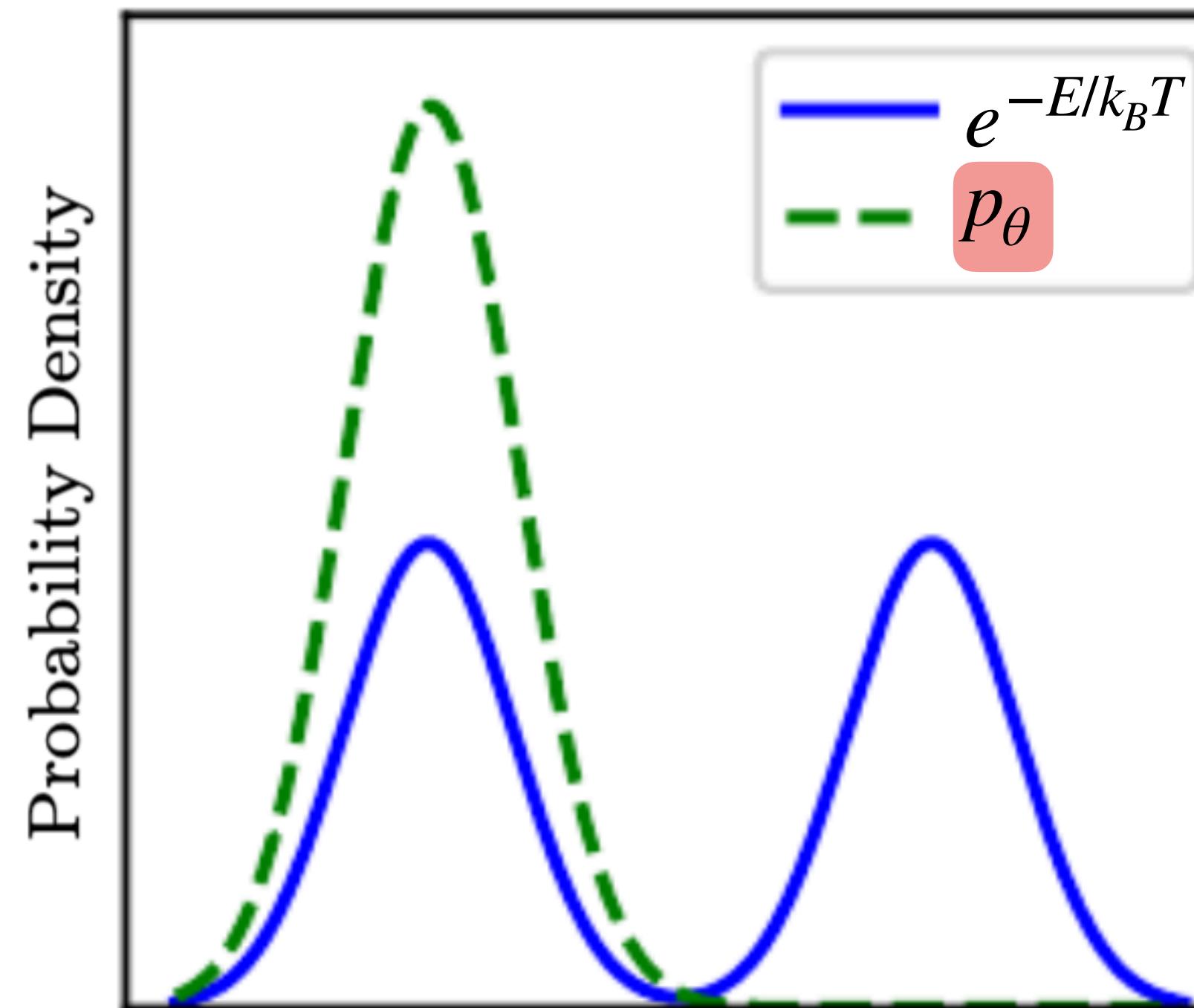
$$\min_{\theta} \text{KL}(\text{data} \parallel p_{\theta})$$

Two sides of the same coin

# Pros and cons

$$\min_{\theta} \text{KL}(p_{\theta} \parallel e^{-E/k_B T})$$

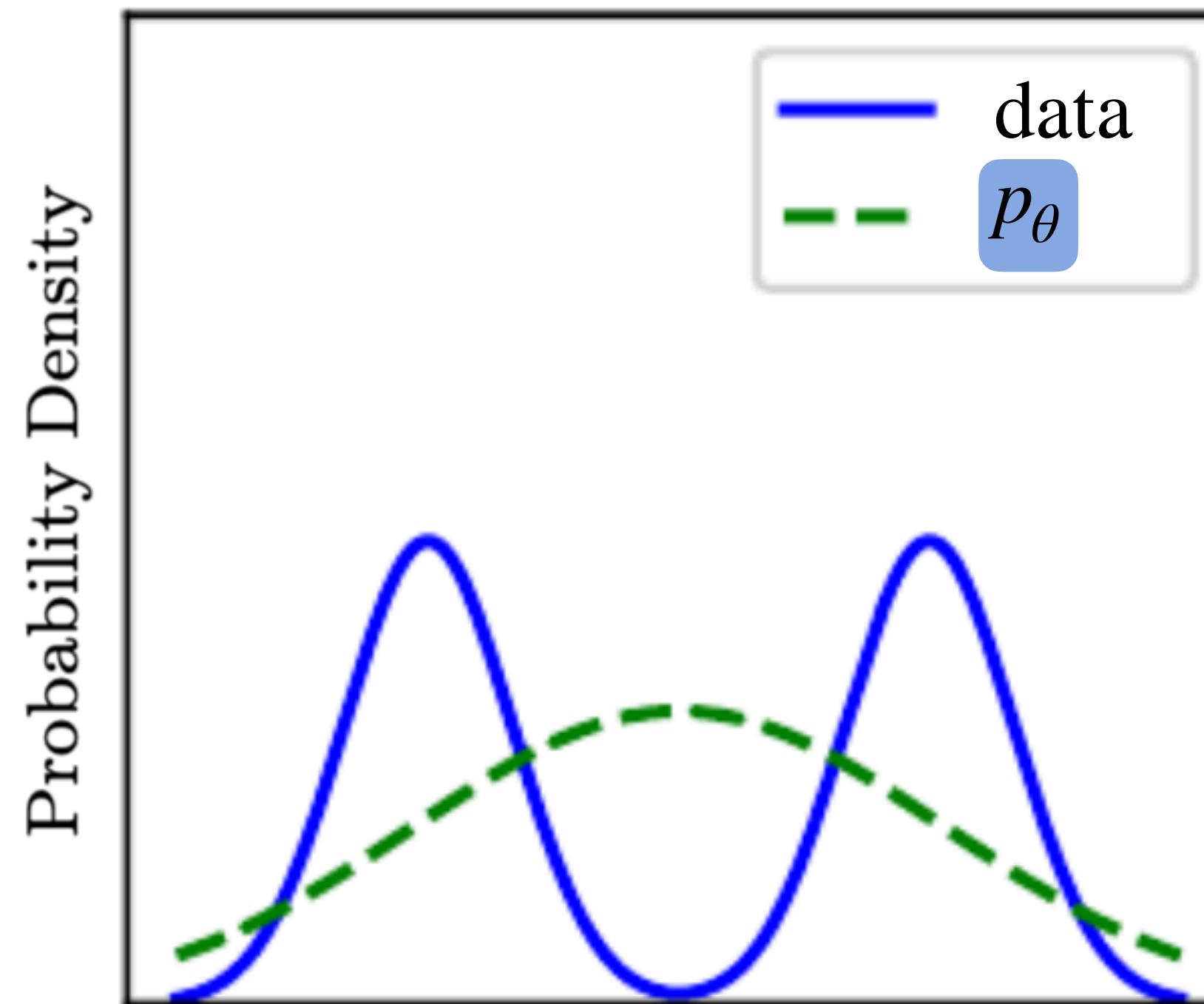
Mode seeking



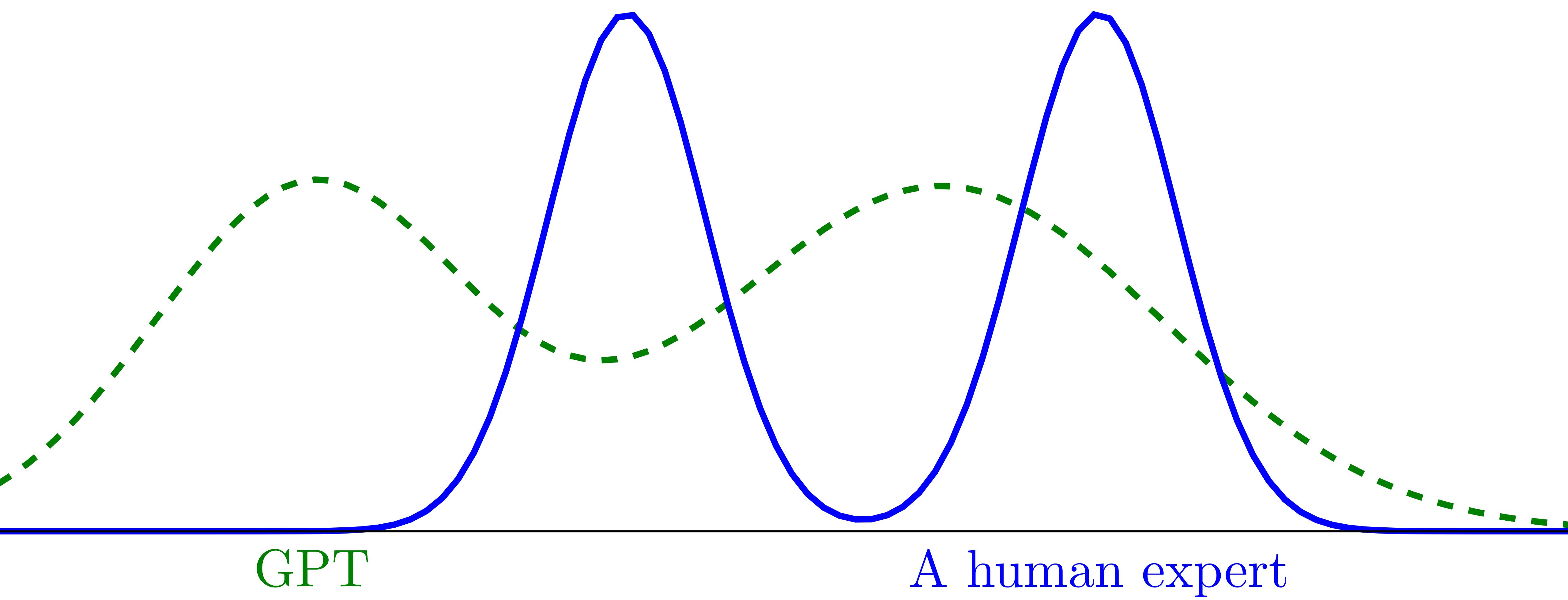
Failure mode: local minima

$$\min_{\theta} \text{KL}(\text{data} \parallel p_{\theta})$$

Mode covering



Failure mode: hallucination



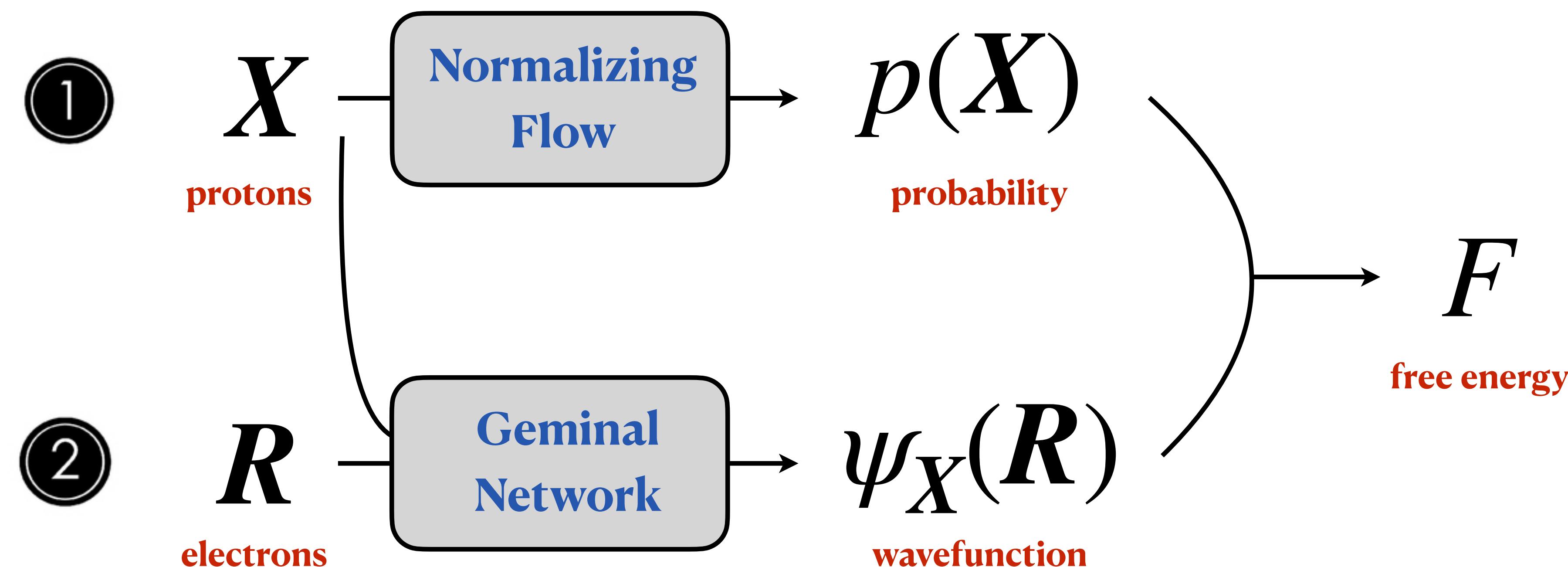
“Jack of all trades, master of none” — 2302.10724

filling the gap vs pushing the boundary of human knowledge

# Deep variational free energy for dense hydrogen

Xie, Li, Wang, Zhang, LW, 2209.06095

$$F = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} \left[ k_B T \ln p(X) + \mathbb{E}_{R \sim |\psi_X(R)|^2} \left[ \frac{\hat{H}\psi_X(R)}{\psi_X(R)} \right] \right]$$



# ① Normalizing flow for proton distribution

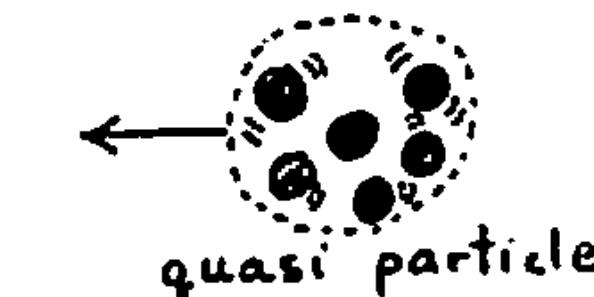
$$p(X) = \frac{1}{L^3} \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial Z}{\partial X} \right) \right|$$

$X \leftrightarrow Z$ : an invertible equivariant neural net

$X$ : proton coordinates

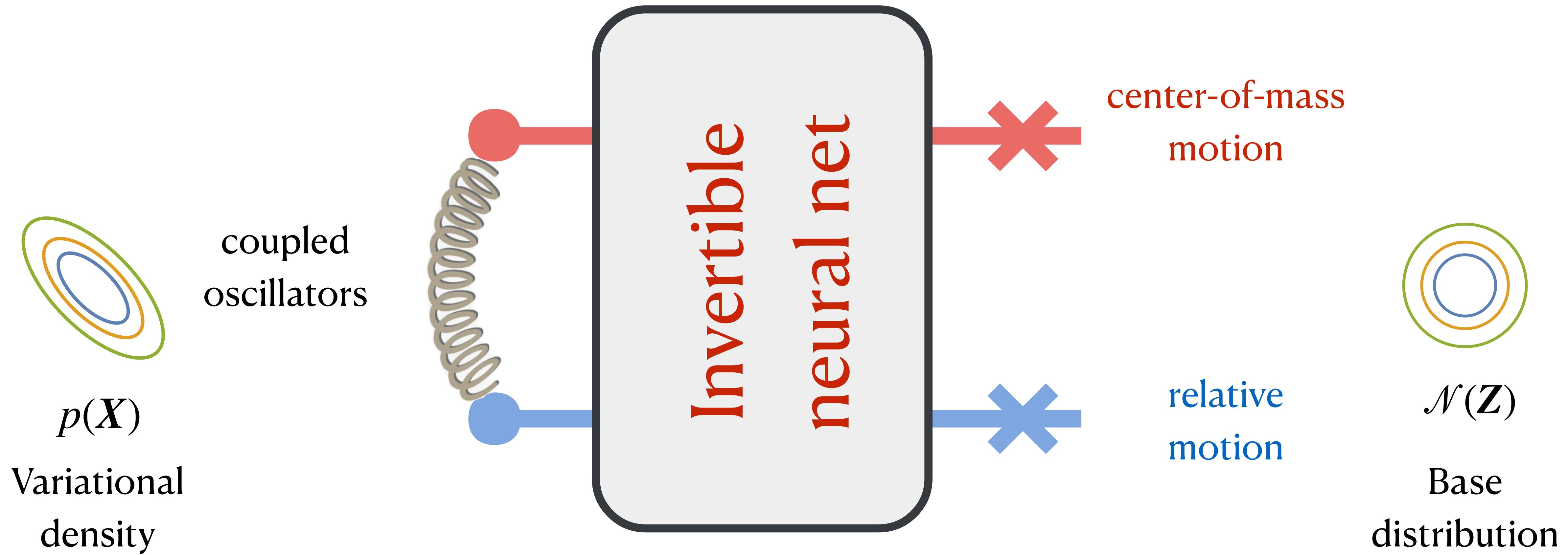


$Z$ : uniform random variables



$$X + \text{NN}(X) = Z$$

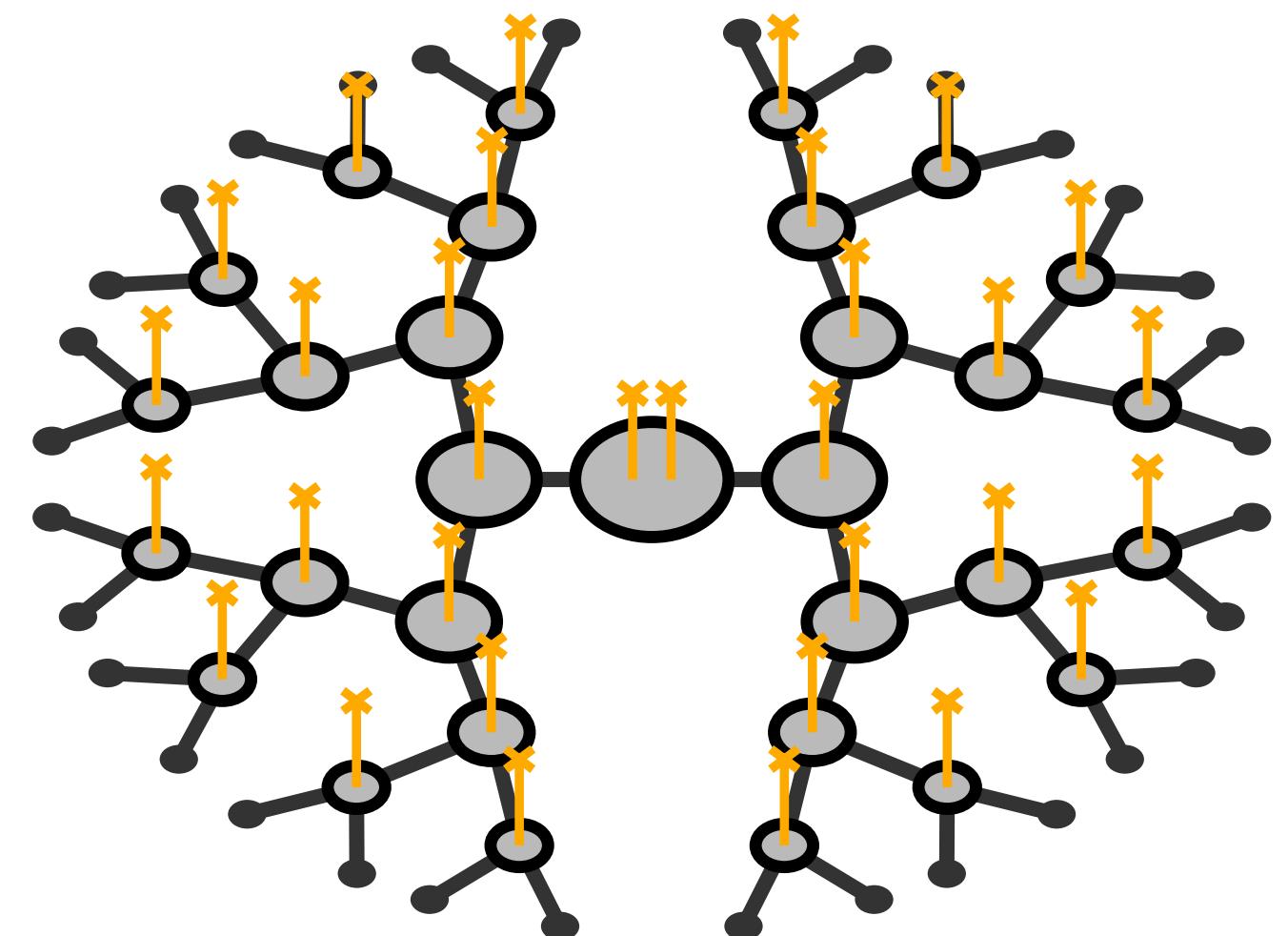
# Physics intuition for normalizing flow



High-dimensional, composable, learnable, nonlinear transformations

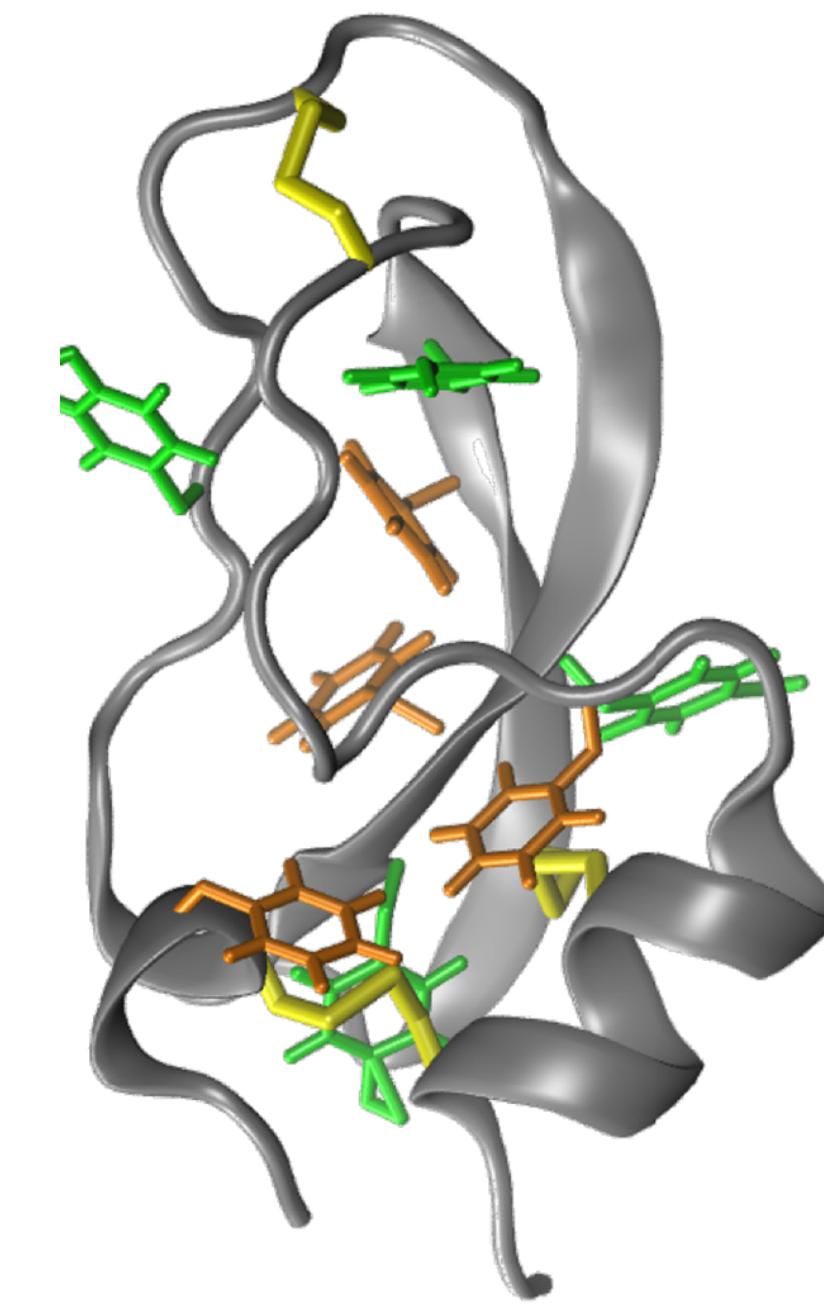
# Normalizing flow in physics

## Renormalization group



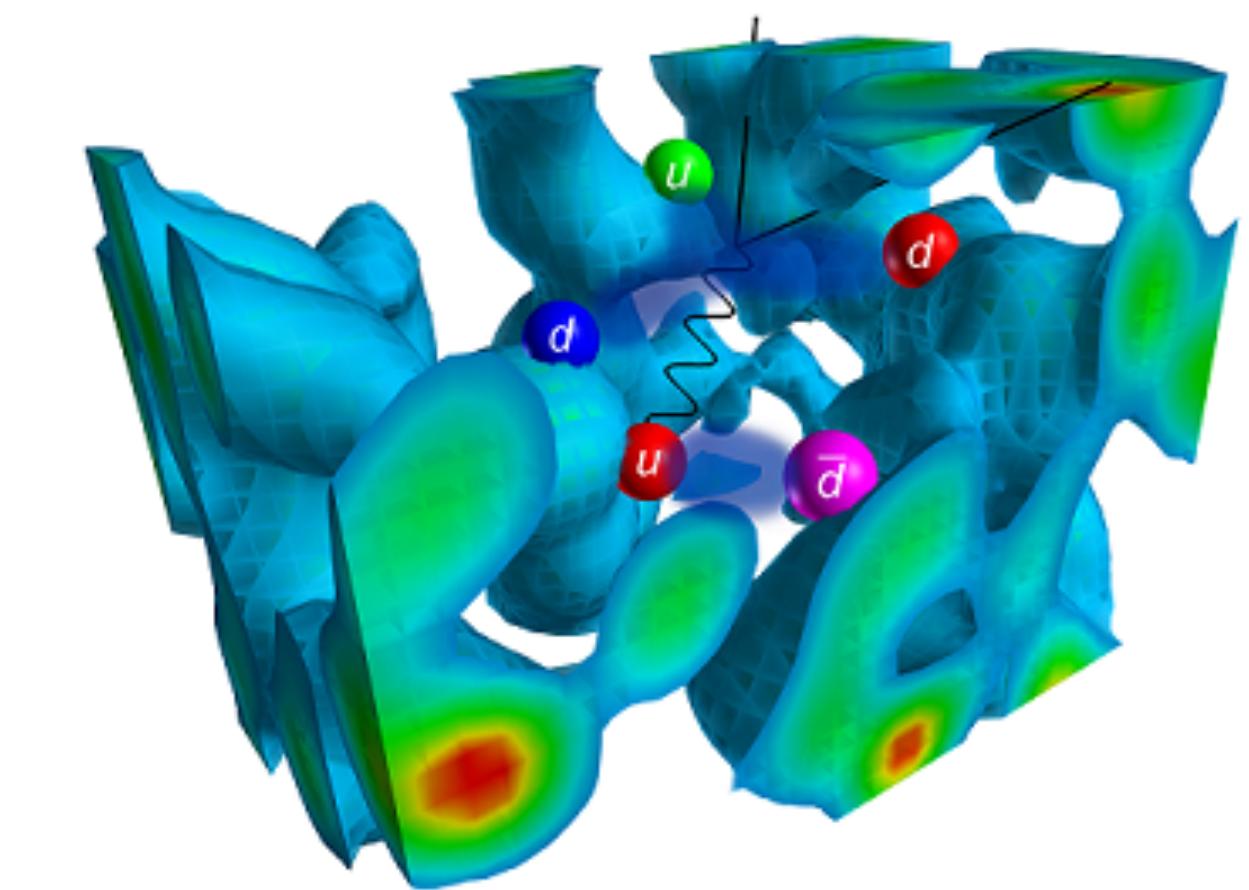
Li and LW, PRL '18  
Li, Dong, Zhang, LW, PRX '20

## Molecular simulation



Noe et al, Science '19  
Wirnsberger et al, JCP '20

## Lattice field theory



Albergo et al, PRD '19  
Kanwar et al, PRL '20

②

# Geminal network

Xie, Li, Wang, Zhang, LW, 2209.06095

$$\psi_X(\mathbf{R}) = e^J \det G$$

Jastrow  $J = \sum_{i,\mu} f_{i\mu}^X b_\mu$

$$G_{ij} =$$

$$f_{i\mu}^\uparrow \quad \forall \mu \in 1 \cdots M$$

$$\frac{N}{2} \times M$$

$$f_{j\nu}^\downarrow \quad \forall \nu \in 1 \cdots M$$

$$M \times \frac{N}{2}$$

Equivariant features

$$f^X, f^\uparrow, f^\downarrow = \text{FermiNet}(X, \mathbf{R}^\uparrow, \mathbf{R}^\downarrow)$$

Pfau et al, PRR '20

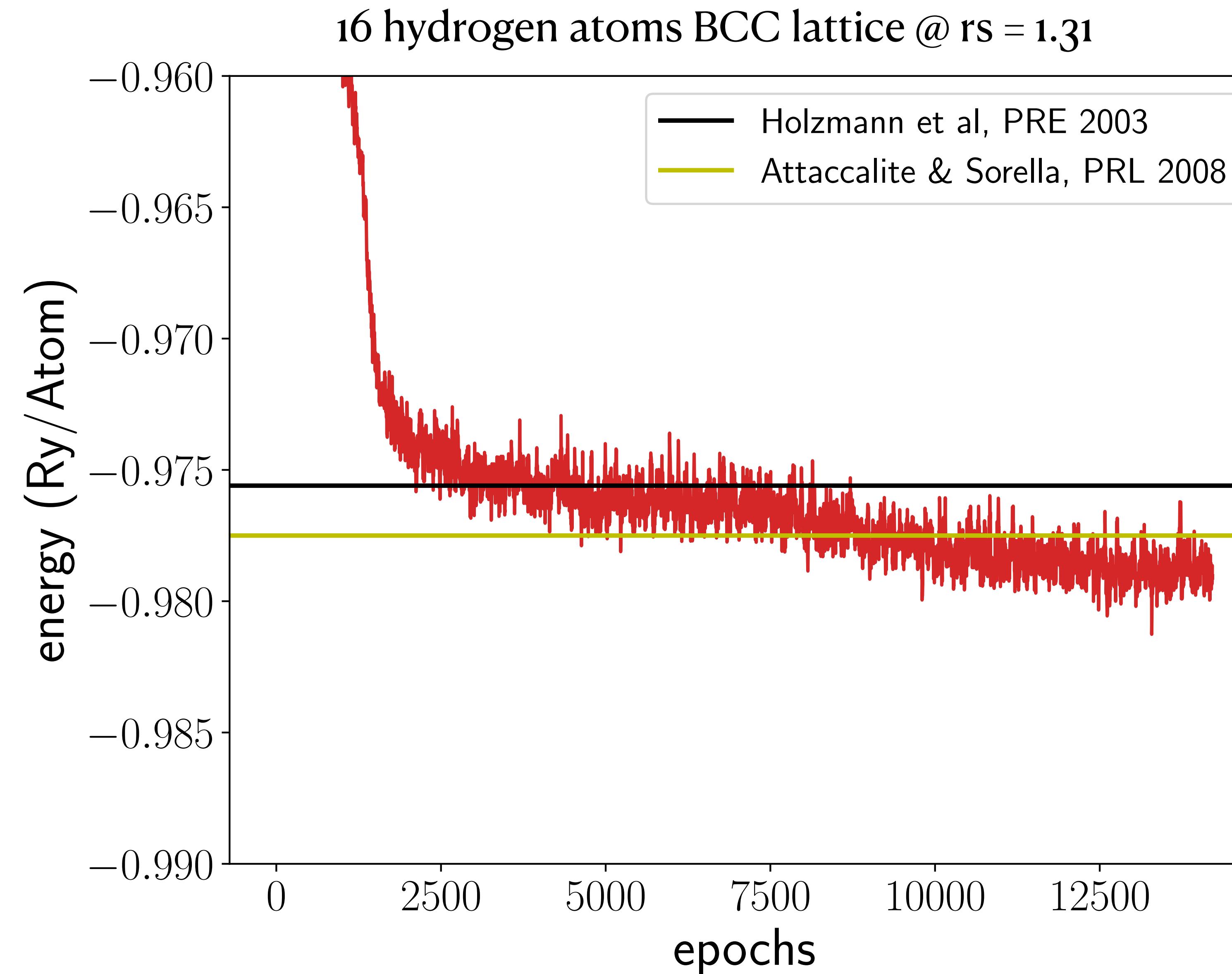
Captures atomic, molecular,  
and superconducting state

Bouchaud et al, '88

Casula et al, '03

Lou et al, 2305.06989

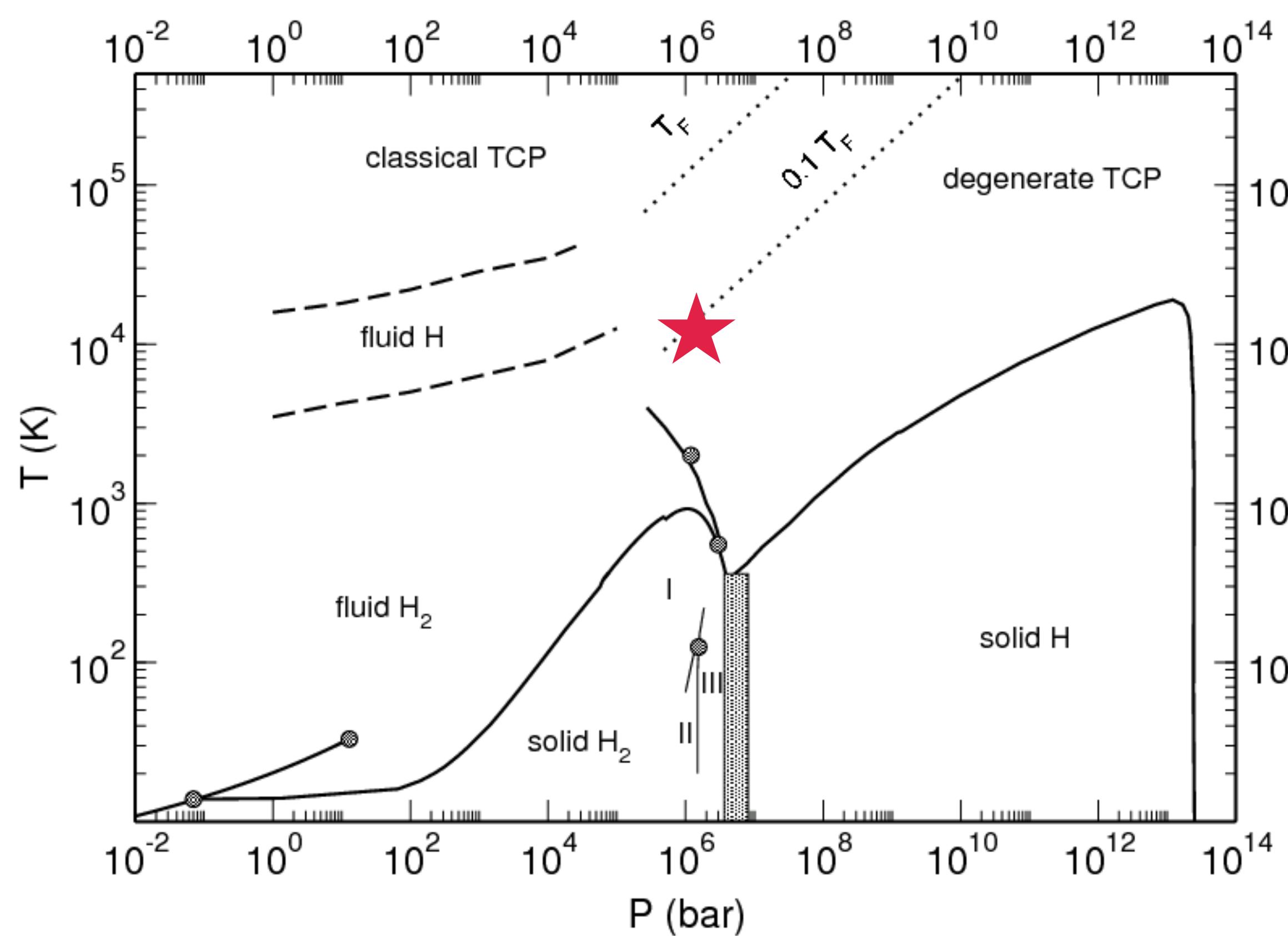
# Variational ground state benchmark



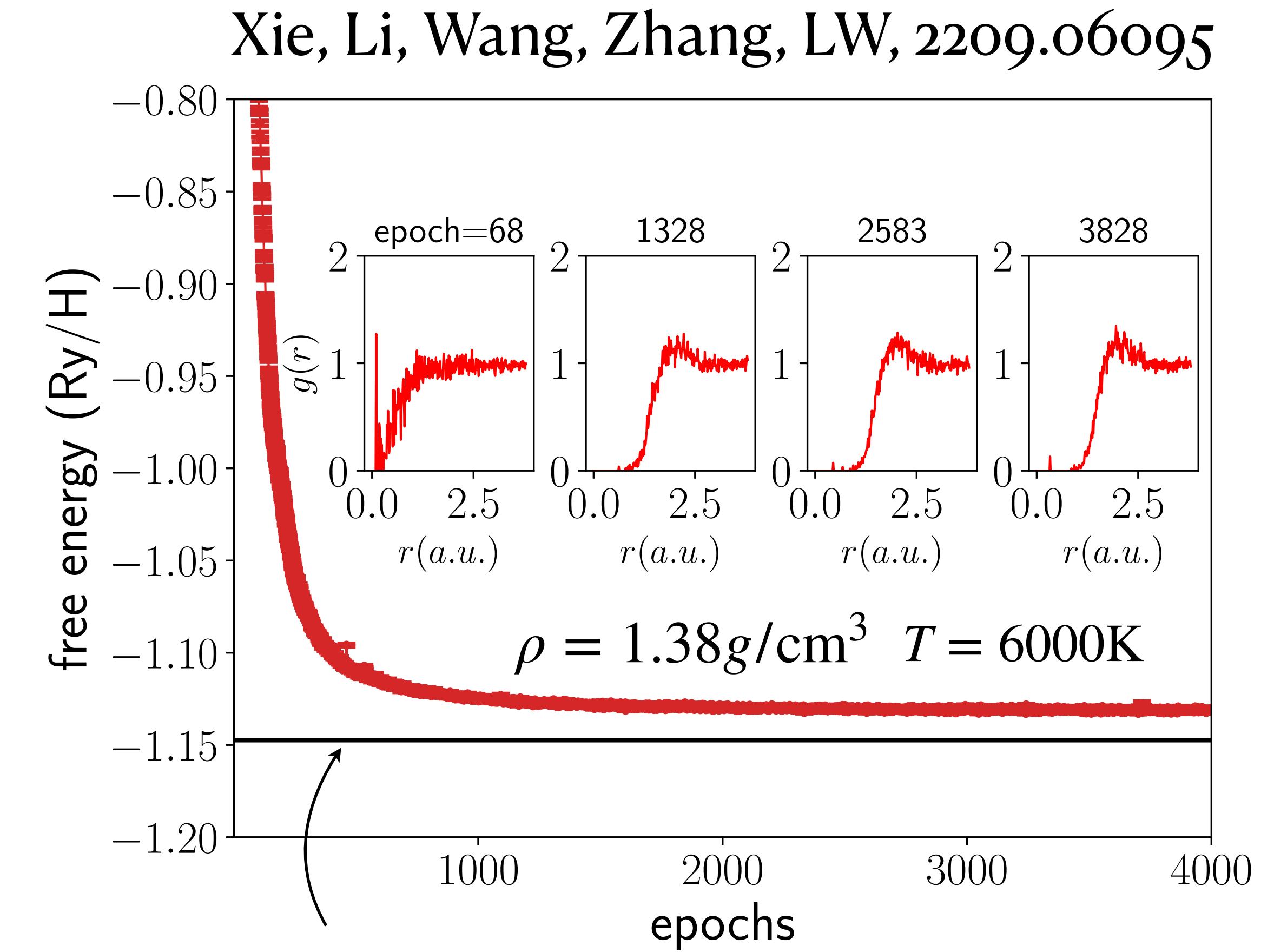
This tests the quality of variational wavefunction

See also: Pfau et al, PRR '20,  
Li et al, Nat. Comm. '22

# Variational free energy of dense hydrogen

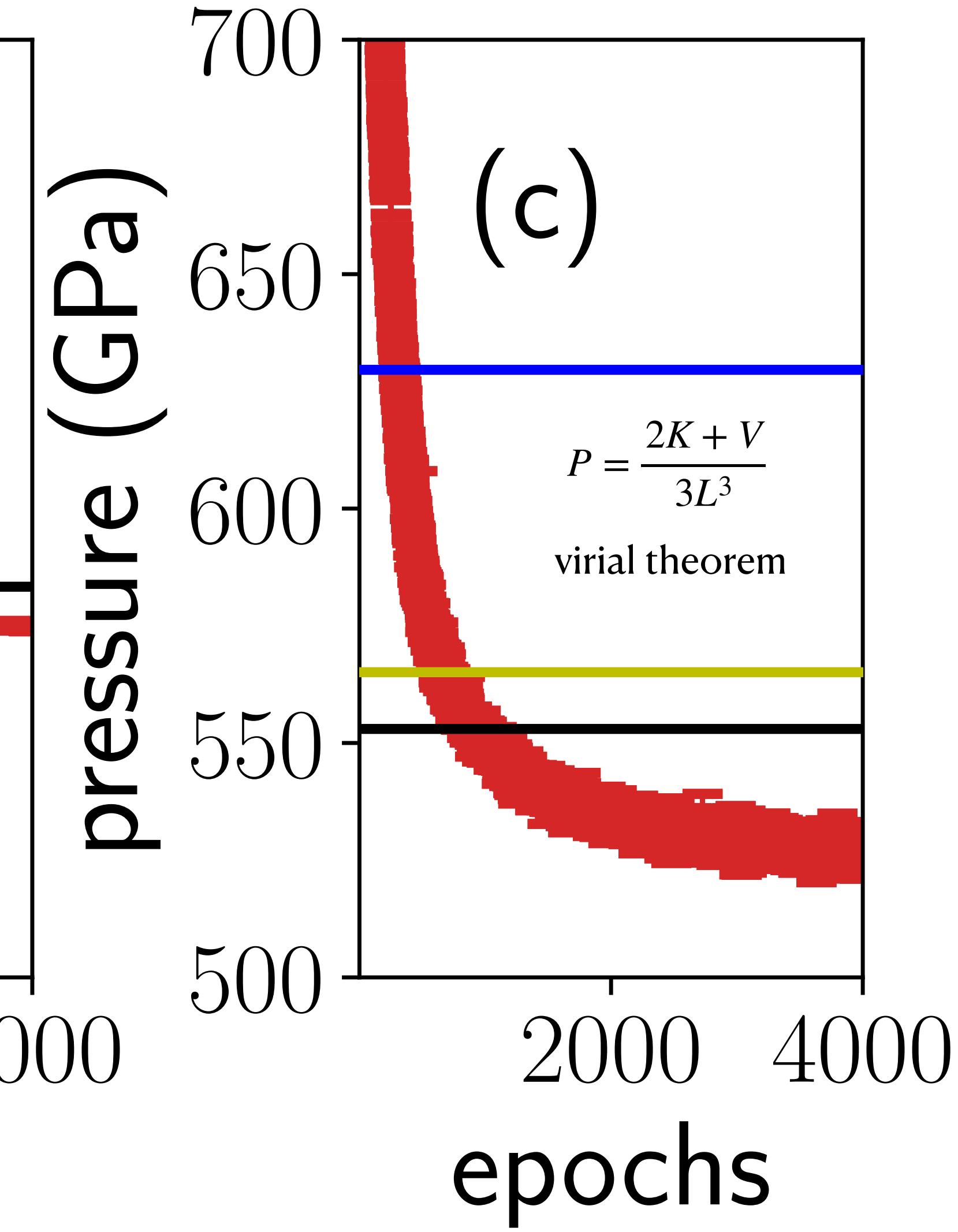
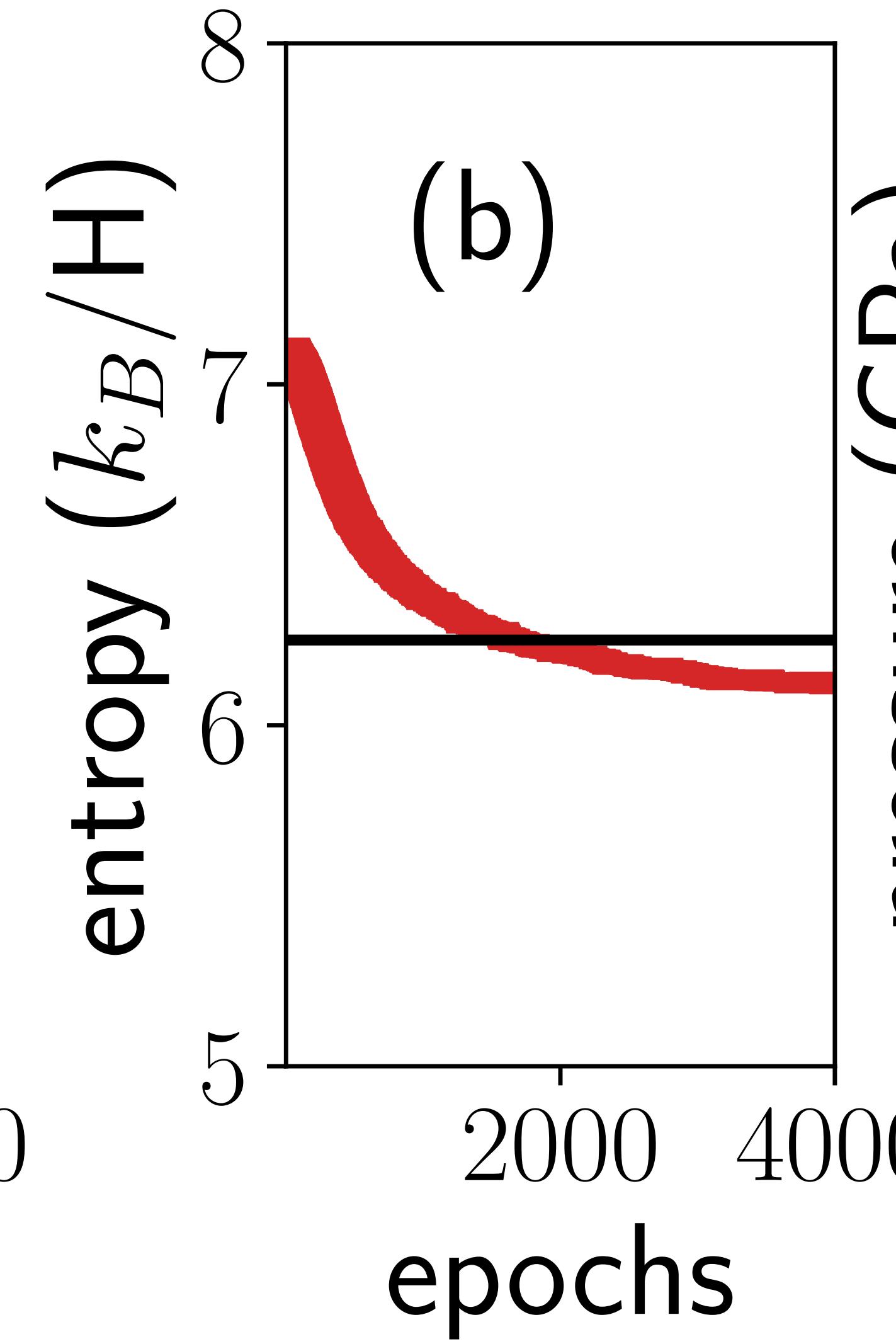
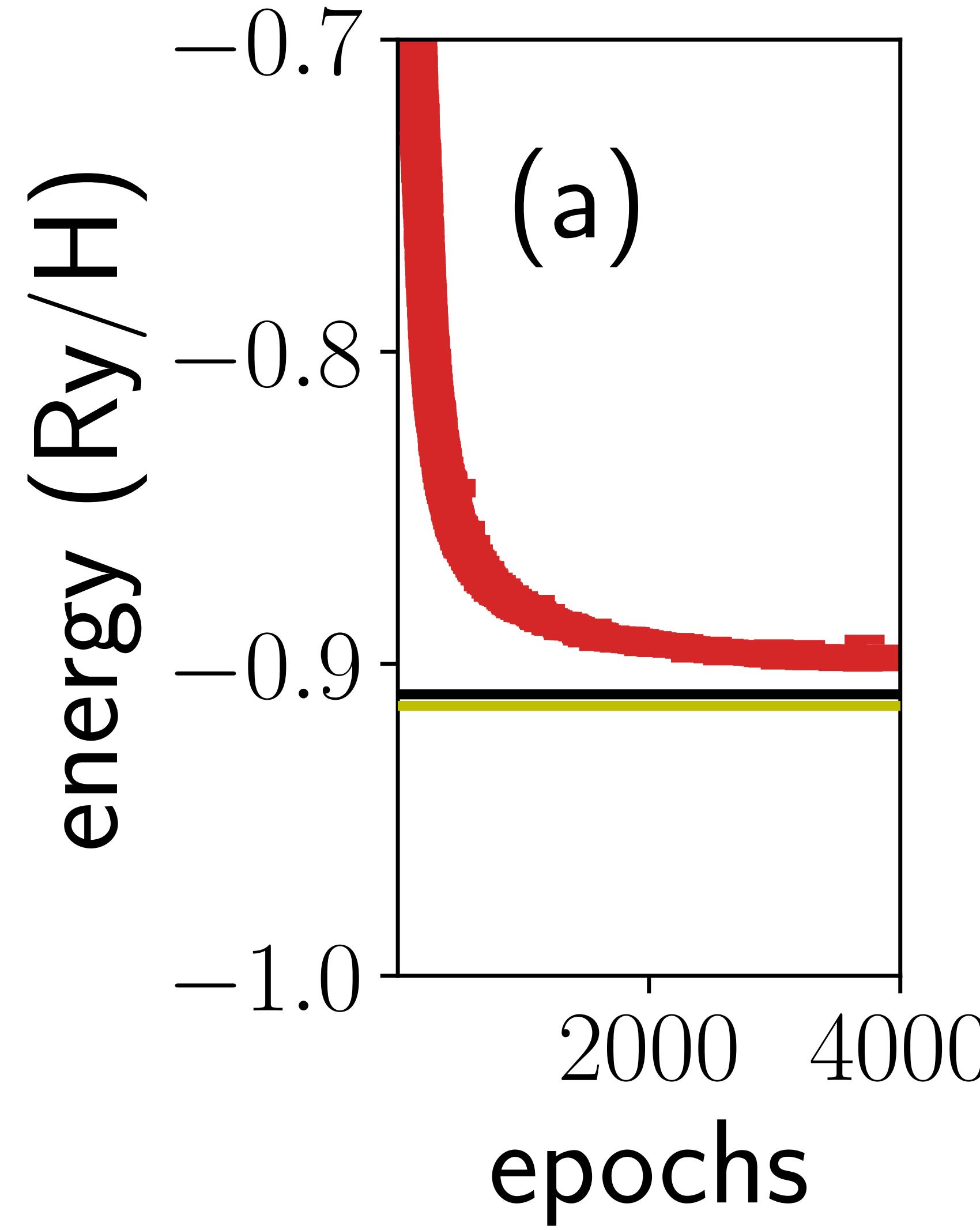


The only parameter point in the literature  
with published free energy value



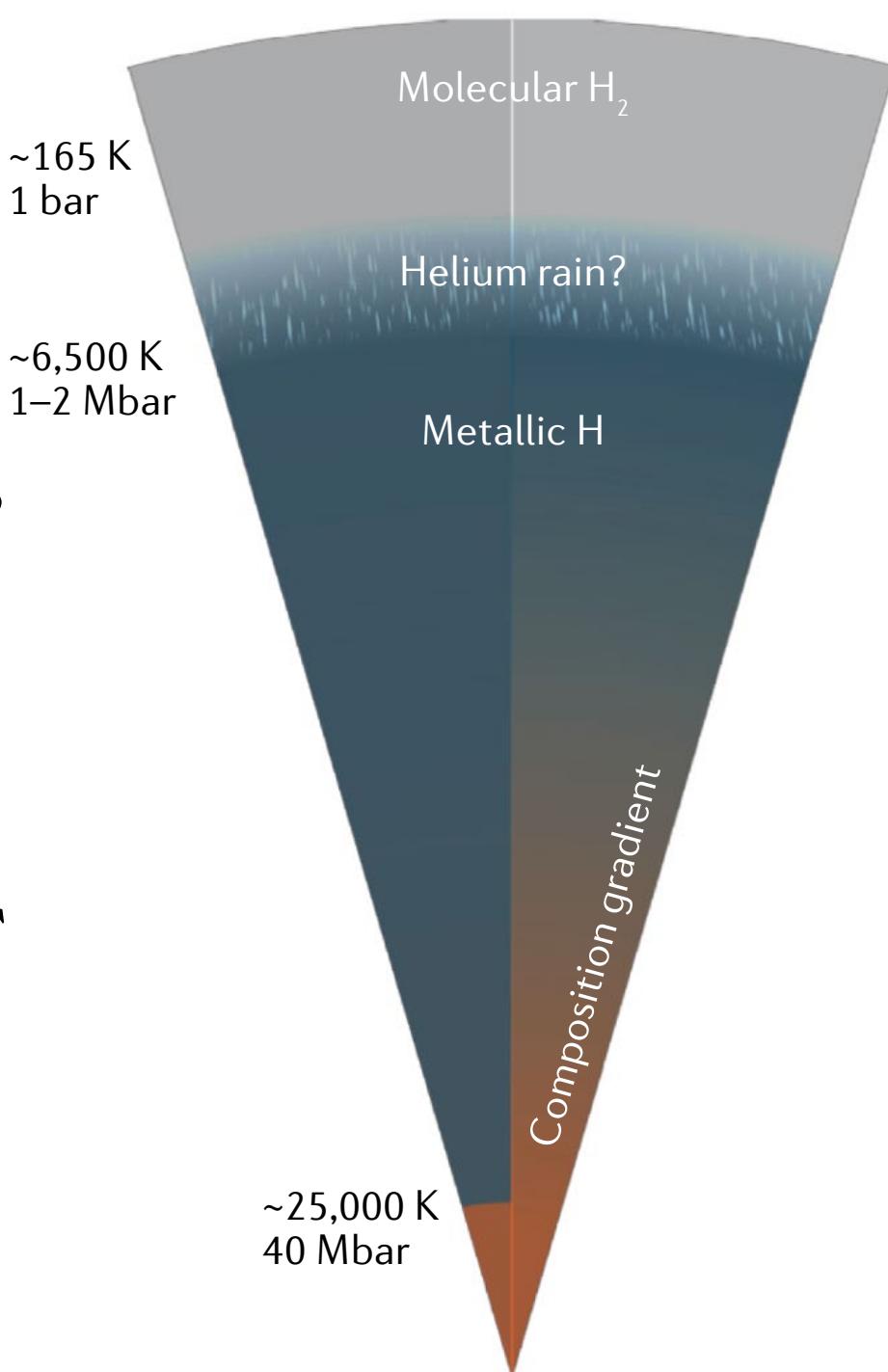
Morales et al, PRE '10: two stage thermodynamic integration: ideal gas  $\rightarrow$  Yukawa gas  $\rightarrow$  Hydrogen  
54 hydrogen atoms with twist-averaged boundary condition

— CEIMC    — AIMD    — SCvH



# Discussions

- Our calculation shows even denser equation-of-state compared to previous results. **The prediction can be systematically improved with lowering the variational free energy.**
- The predicted equation of state is relevant for planet modeling, where direct access to entropy is welcoming.
- This is an “uninteresting” point in the phase diagram: a soup of  $H^+$ ,  $e^-$ , and  $H$ . No phase transition or other fancy physics.



# Inject physics knowledge into the flow

Uninformative uniform base distribution

$$p(X) = \frac{1}{L^3} \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{Z}}{\partial X} \right) \right|$$

Absolute variational free energy for normalized variational density

$$F = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} \left[ k_B T \ln p(X) + \mathbb{E}_{R \sim |\psi_X(R)|^2} \left[ \frac{\hat{H}\psi_X(R)}{\psi_X(R)} \right] \right]$$

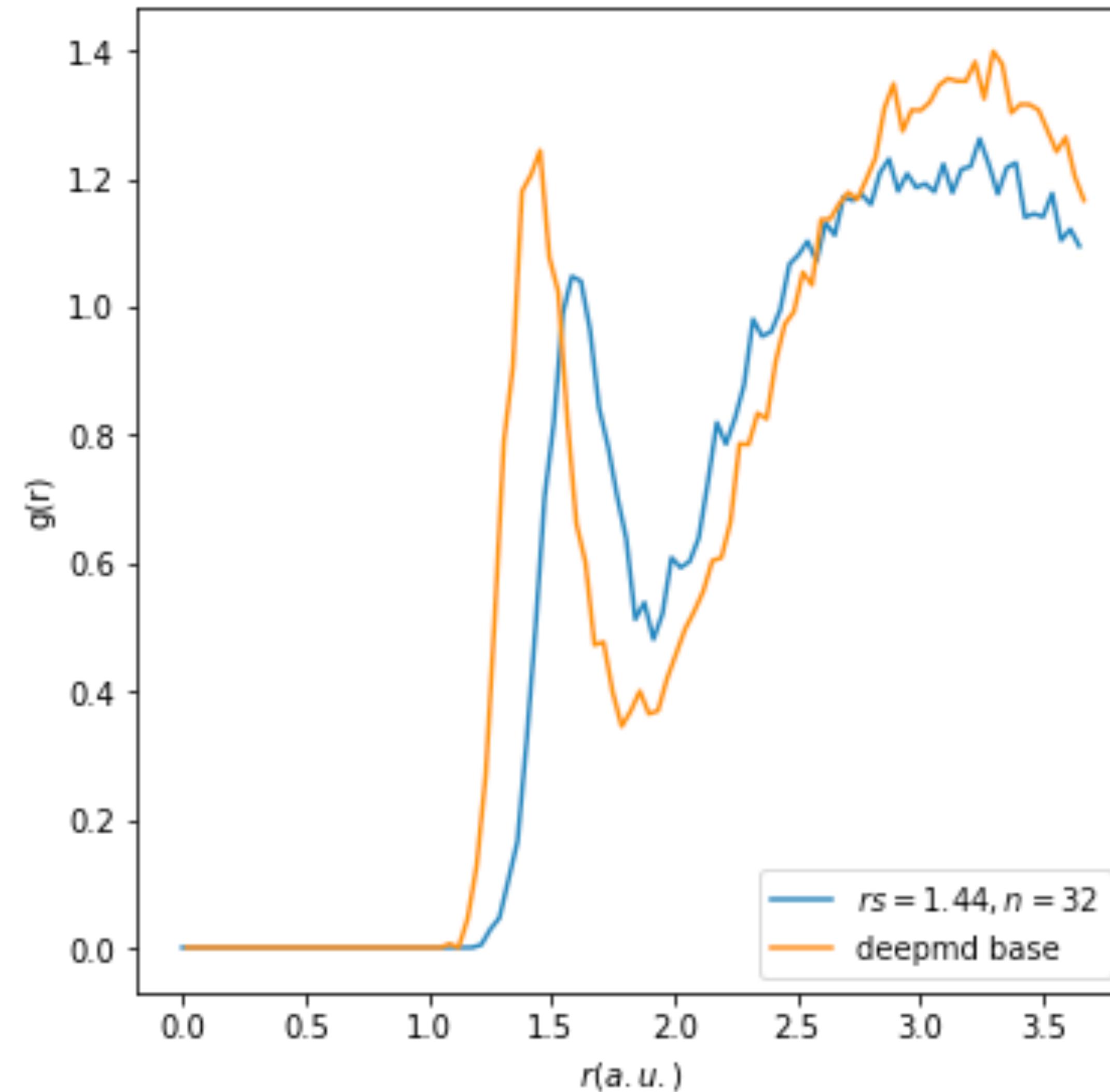
# Inject physics knowledge into the flow

A more informative base distribution, e.g. a [machine learning potential](#)

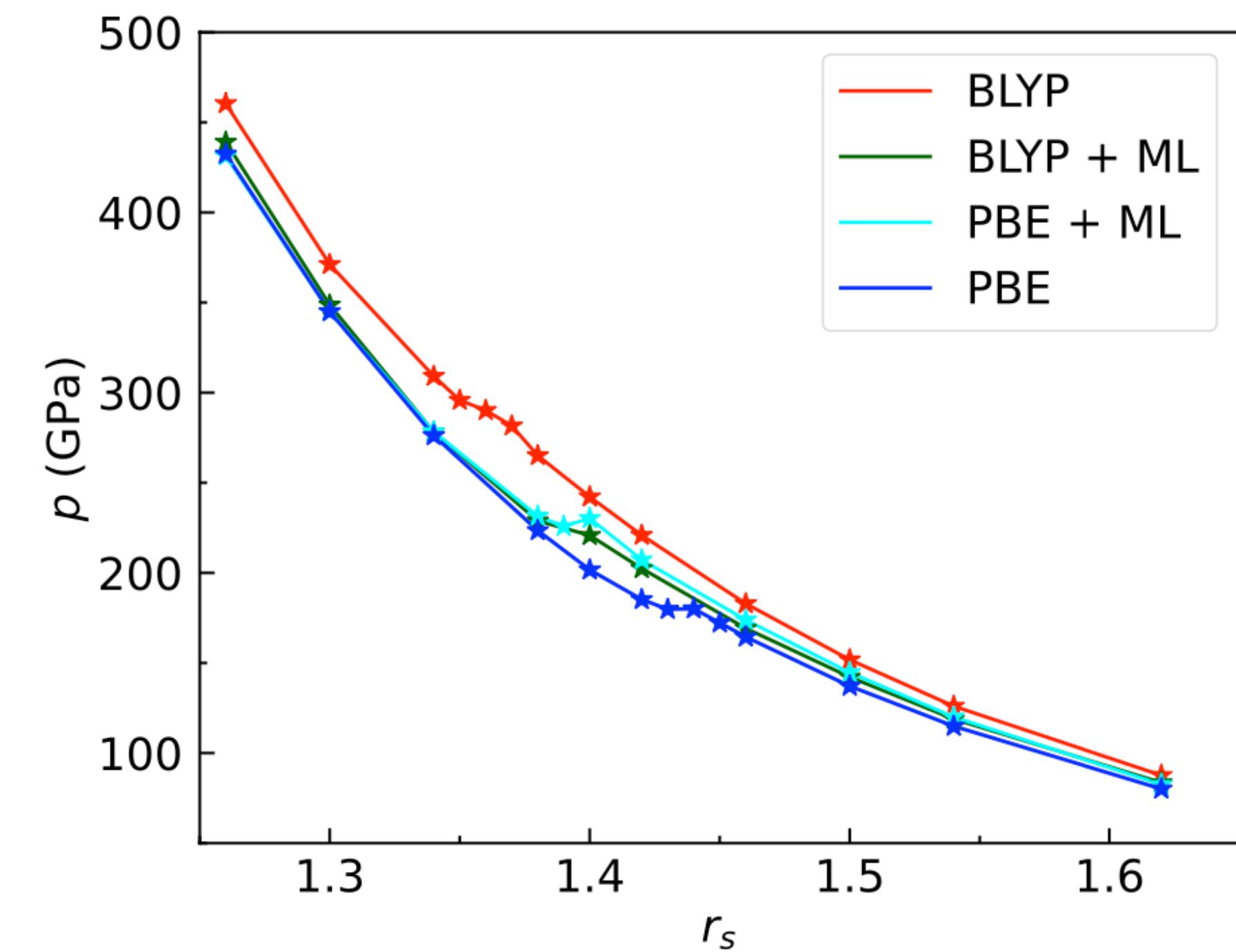
$$p(X) = \frac{e^{-E_{\text{ML}}(\mathbf{Z})/k_B T}}{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{ML}}} \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{Z}}{\partial X} \right) \right|$$

We are optimizing free energy difference to the machine learning model

$$F = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p(X)} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{R \sim |\psi_X(R)|^2} \left[ \frac{\hat{H}\psi_X(R)}{\psi_X(R)} \right] - E_{\text{ML}}(\mathbf{Z}) + k_B T \ln \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{Z}}{\partial X} \right) \right| \right] - k_B T \ln \mathcal{Z}_{\text{ML}}$$



Correcting base bias with variational optimization



Correcting baseline bias in  $\Delta$ -ML

Tirelli et al, PRB 2022

# Outlook: quantum protons and finite electronic temperatures

## Variational density matrix with **neural canonical transformations**

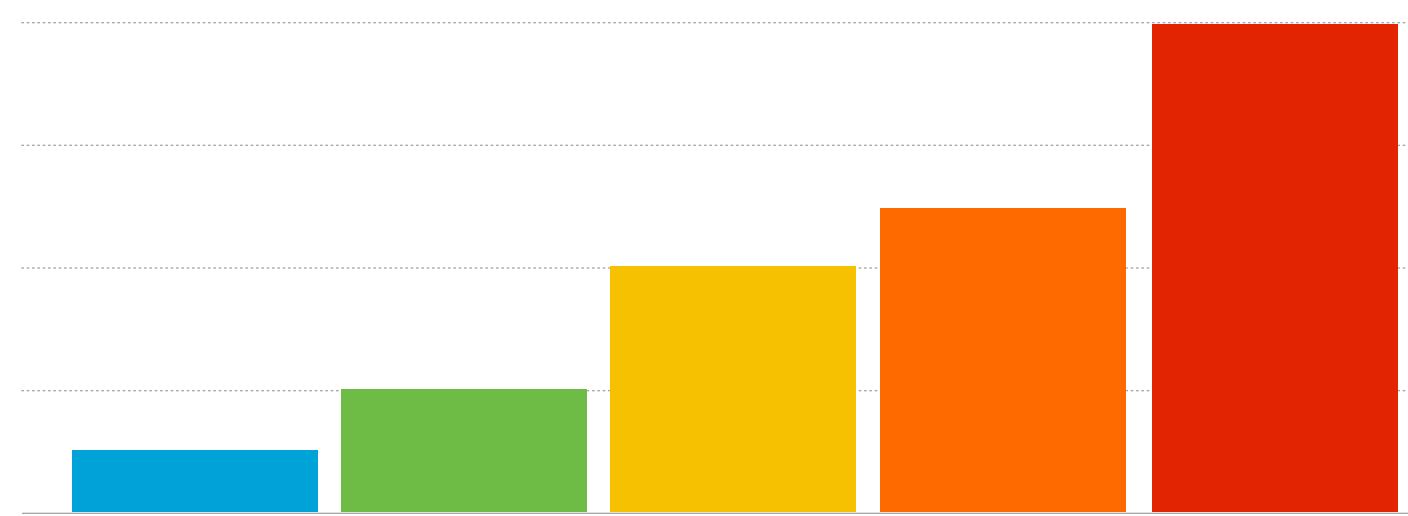
Xie et al, 2105.08644 & 2201.03156

$$\min F[\rho] = k_B T \text{Tr}(\rho \ln \rho) + \text{Tr}(H\rho)$$

$$\rho = \sum_n p_n |\Psi_n\rangle\langle\Psi_n|$$

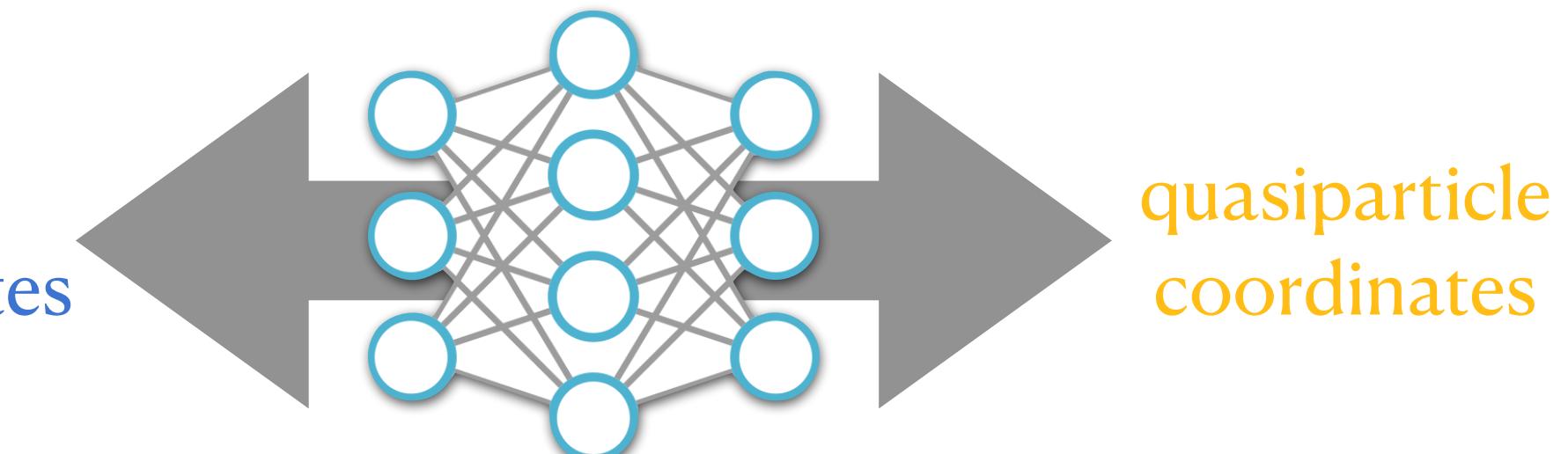
Classical probability  $p_n$

Quantum state basis  $|\Psi_n\rangle$



masked causal transformer

particle  
coordinates



$\sqrt{\text{Normalizing flow}}$

“Using AI to accelerate scientific discovery” Demis Hassabis, co-founder and CEO of DeepMind, 2021

## What makes for a suitable problem?

1

Massive combinatorial  
search space

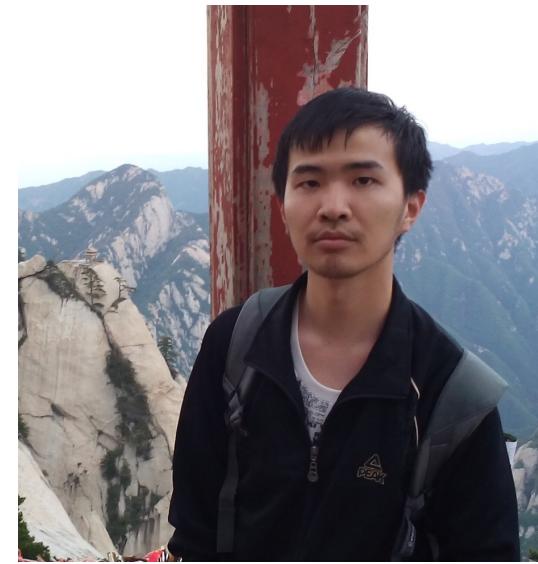
2

Clear objective function  
(metric) to optimise  
against

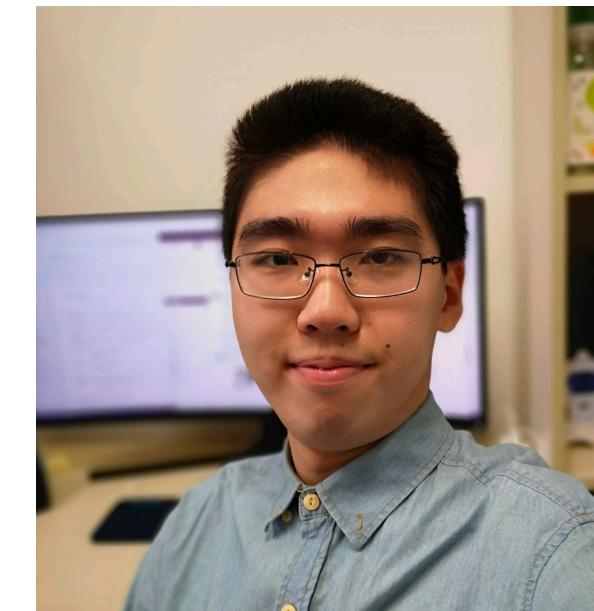
3

Either lots of data  
and/or an accurate and  
efficient simulator

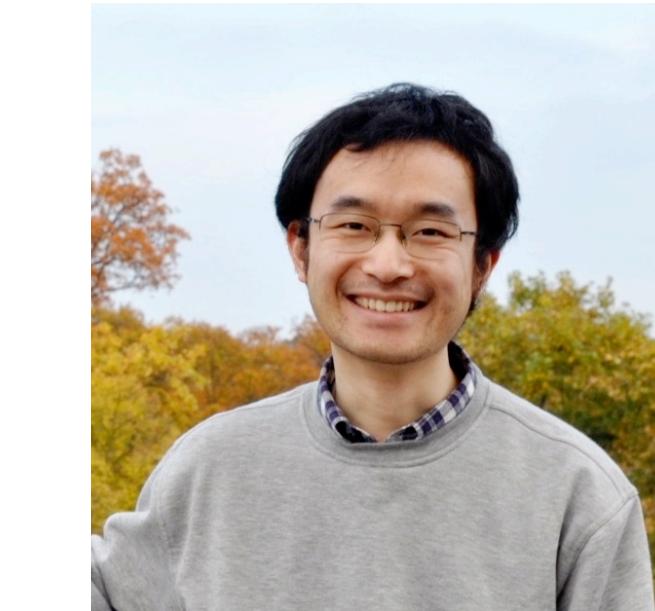
# Thank you!



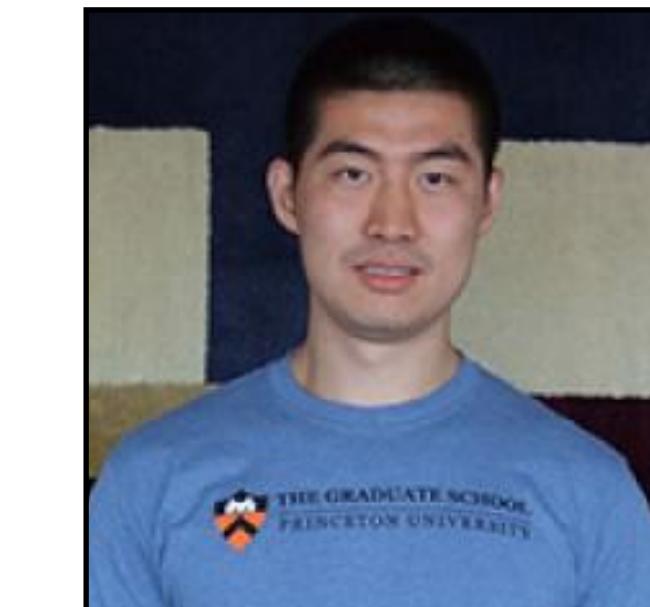
Hao Xie  
IOP



Zi-Hang Li



Han Wang  
IAPCM



Linfeng Zhang  
DP/AISI



**fermiflow theory, 2105.08644**  
 **$m^*$  of electron gas, 2201.03156**  
**dense hydrogen, 2209.06095**



[github.com/FermiFlow](https://github.com/FermiFlow)

# Machine Learning: Science and Technology

## Focus on Generative AI in Science

### Guest Editors

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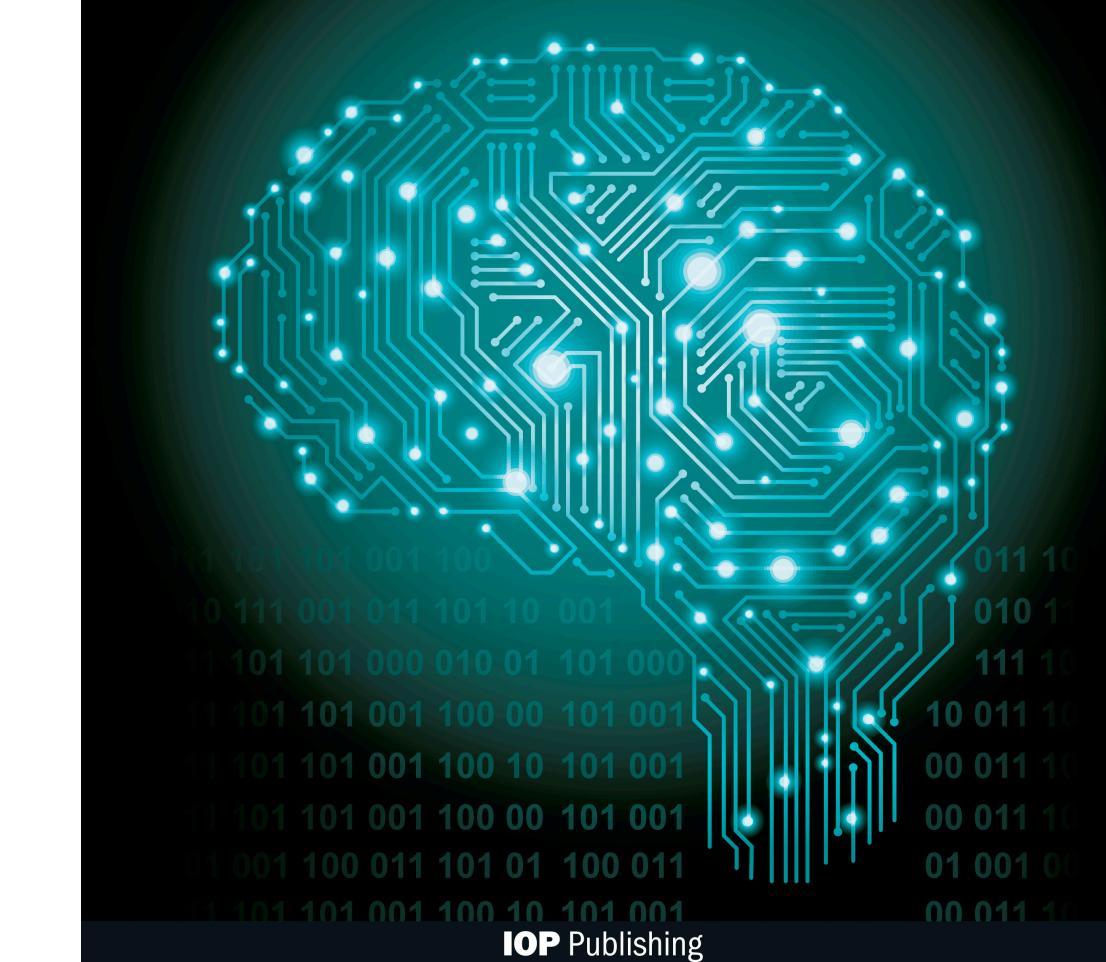
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